

**Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer  
and Henry Shields**

## **Groan Ups**

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METHUEN DRAMA

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc  
50 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP, UK  
1385 Broadway, New York, NY 10018, USA

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First published in Great Britain 2019

*Groan Ups* by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields

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A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.  
A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

ISBN: PB: 978-1-3501-5877-1

Series: Modern Plays

Typeset by Country Setting, Kingdown, Kent CT14 8ES  
Printed and bound in Great Britain

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*Groan Ups* was first performed at the Vaudeville Theatre, London on Friday 20 September 2019, presented by Kenny Wax and Stage Presence, with the following cast and creative team:

<b>Mr White</b>	Dave Hearn
<b>Miss Murray</b>	Bryony Corrigan
<b>Moon</b>	Nancy Zamit
<b>Spencer</b>	Henry Lewis
<b>Katie</b>	Charlie Russell
<b>Archie</b>	Henry Shields
<b>Simon</b>	Jonathan Sayer
<b>Paul</b>	Dave Hearn
<b>Chemise</b>	Bryony Corrigan

Understudies:

*Mr White, Paul, Spencer* Paul Brown  
*Moon* Krystal Dockery  
*Archie, Simon* George Haynes  
*Miss Murray, Chemise, Katie* Holly Sumpton

*Writers* Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, Henry Shields  
*Director* Kirsty Patrick Ward  
*Set Design* Fly Davis  
*Costume Design* Roberto Surace  
*Sound Design and Composition* Alexandra Faye Braithwaite  
*Lighting Design* Christopher Nairne  
*Associate Director* Katie-Ann McDonough

## **Groan Ups**

‘We don’t stop playing because we grow old;  
we grow old because we stop playing.’

*George Bernard Shaw*

## **Characters**

**Moon**

**Spencer**

**Katie**

**Archie**

**Simon**

**Mr White**

**Miss Murray**

**Paul**

**Chemise**

The action takes place at Bloomfield's School in 1994, 2001 and 2019.

The same actors play Moon, Spencer, Katie, Archie and Simon at all three ages. Mr White and Miss Murray are doubled with Paul and Chemise respectively.

## Act One

### Scene One

*Bloomfield's School. Spring 1994.*

*A large faded curtain hangs across the stage. A giant lectern stands centre stage. Lights down.*

**Mr White** Right, settle down please. Come on. Seniors, set a good example for the juniors. Thank you. Now –

*Spotlight comes up on a member of the audience.*

Sarah Jameson! Spit out the gum. Thank you. Right, notices. Whichever one of you graffitied the English block with the words 'Mr White is obsolescent', you are going to be in a lot of trouble, although good use of vocabulary.

Also, any vegetarians who ate Mrs Van-Eggmond's vegetarian burgers yesterday lunchtime, you are now no longer vegetarians. Now I'm not taking assembly this morning – Year Elevens, stop canoodling at the back! Sidney Johnson, I want your hands where I can see them. Right, I'm going to hand you over to Miss Murray.

*Spotlight up on another audience member.*

Sean Munnery, stop fiddling with yourself immediately. Here is Miss Murray and Year Two.

**Miss Murray** Thank you, Mr White. Now Yellow Group from Year Two have been working hard on –

*Spotlight up on another audience member.*

**Mr White** Immediate detention.

**Miss Murray** They've put together some presentations about their weekends. So, please welcome Year Two Yellow Group.

*Applause.*

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**Mr White** No. After last year's carol concert I'm not going to allow clapping to be used as a weapon.

*Lights up. Spencer, Katie, Moon, Simon and Archie troop on from stage right and form a line looking up at the imagined Miss Murray.*

**Miss Murray** (*voice-over*) Good morning, Yellow Group.

**All** Good morning, Miss Murray. Good morning, everyone. 'What We Did on the Weekend'.

*The group slap their legs and clap their hands in rhythm.*

**Moon** Hello, my name is Moon.

**All** What did you do at the weekend, Moon?

**Moon** *comes forward.*

**Moon** My name's Moon and my parents live at the office. This weekend they came to visit me where I live with my au pair, Francesca. She says I am *une enfant terrible*. On Saturday we watched the dressage with the horses. Two of the horses are mine.

**Spencer** I am a horse.

**Katie** Horses don't wear capes.

**Spencer** I am a clothes horse.

**Moon** Daddy says I have to go to state school so I can learn to be equal with the poor. Mummy says it's called a state school because it's a right state.

**Katie** My daddy says Moon's mummy is a right state but he still would.

**Moon** And that was my weekend.

*The group slap their legs and clap again.*

**Archie** Hello, my name is Archie.

**All** What did you do at the weekend, Archie?

**Archie** This weekend I played dressing up. My favourite costume is mummy's bras. I like to put them on and sing Disney because I'm going to be a star!

**Archie** *sings 'I Just Can't Wait to be King' by Elton John and Tim Rice. Simon joins in on the last line.*

*The children applaud Archie.*

**Mr White** *(voice-over)* I said no clapping!

**Spencer** I am Archie's dad, Mr Patterson. What's all this disgrace?

**Moon** I am Archie's mum. What is all this shouting, Ronald? I am trying to do my aerobics.

**Katie** My daddy says Archie's mummy is a bit past it but he still would.

**Spencer** The boy is in your bras again. I think perhaps I should take him to the football.

**Archie** I hate football but my daddy said I should love it. And that was my weekend.

*The group slap their legs and clap again.*

**Spencer** Hello, my name is Spencer.

**All** What did you do at the weekend, Spencer?

**Spencer** This weekend I did a poo. And it was massive. And it was stinky and it was in the corridor and even though my mummy said I had let myself down I was still proud anyway. And I showed it to my daddy and he said that even though he shouldn't be he was impressed.

**Moon** Spencer has to go for extra classes on Saturdays because he is naughty.

**Spencer** Miss Murray is teaching me of boundaries. For example how to play of the class hamster. You *must not* stroke our hamster like this.



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*He violently smashes his hand on top of his other hand.*

If you stroke a hamster like this then he could die.

**Simon** My uncle died of stroke.

**Spencer** But that wasn't me.

**Katie** My daddy was 'ccused of stroking but it was her word against his.

**Simon** Ding-a-ling-a-ling!

**Spencer** Home time!

**Moon** We are Spencer's mummy and daddy. (*Traumatised.*)  
Spencer you're home. Isn't that good.

**Archie** Jesus, I thought we had another hour. I need to get out of here! Spencer, where are my car keys?

**Spencer** (*guiltily*) I have no idea.

*He begins to 'buzz' excitedly.*

**Moon** Oh no. He's had sugar.

**Spencer** *runs around screaming and breaking things.*

**Moon** Please stop, Spencer.

**Spencer** No! Shut up, Karen.

*He shoots a grin at the audience.*

**Katie** My daddy says Spencer's mummy is damaged goods.

**All** But he still would!

**Moon** That's it, Spencer, no more Smarties!

**Spencer** I love Smarties! They are the batteries of me! And that was my weekend.

*The group slap their legs and clap again. Simon doesn't come in, the others look at him. He manages to find his place in the rhythm.*

**Simon** (*quietly*) Hello, my name is Simon.

**All** WHAT DID YOU DO AT THE WEEKEND, SIMON?

**Moon** *shoves Simon forward. Silence. Simon is terrified. Simon takes a puff on his inhaler.*

**Simon** This weekend I had nits.

*Silence. He scratches his head.*

And that was my weekend.

*The group slap their legs and clap again.*

**Katie** Hello, my name is Katie.

**All** What did you do at the weekend, Katie?

**Katie** *steps forward.*

**Katie** I am Katie. On Saturday my mummy put my spelling test on the fridge because I got ten out of ten. I always get ten out of ten. Then my mummy went out.

**Archie** *comes forward wearing a scarf.*

**Archie** This place is a madhouse. I need a drink.

**Simon** I am Katie's dad. It's only eleven.

**Archie** Don't I know it. SLAM!

**Katie** And then the cleaner, Pam, came to visit.

**Moon** *comes forward with a mop.*

**Simon** Katie, you must stay downstairs because Pam and I need to clean the bedroom.

**Katie** Yes, Daddy. When Pam and Daddy clean the bedroom they are very loud because they can't decide who should have the mop.

**Moon** Give it to me, Reg!

**Simon** You want it?

**Moon** Give it to me!

**Simon** You want it?

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**Moon** Oh yes! Give it to me!

**Simon** *gives Moon the mop.*

**Simon** Yes!

**Moon** *gives the mop back.*

**Moon** Give it to me harder!

**Simon** *thrusts the mop to Moon.*

**Simon** Take it, you kinky horse! You're so much dirtier than my wife.

*He takes the mop.*

**Moon** I'm filthy! Oh yeah! That's it! Put it there. Right there! Right there!

**Simon** Yeah!

**Simon** *starts to clean the floor with the mop in one place.*

**Moon** Oh God! Faster! Faster! Faster!

**Simon** *mops quicker and quicker.*

**Simon** Like this?

*Mops faster.*

**Moon** Yes! Don't stop! Don't stop.

**Simon** How about in here?

*He puts the mop in the bucket.*

**Moon** No, not in there! Never in there. Only on your birthday.

**Katie** My daddy is better at cleaning than Pam and he always wins because he always finishes first. This weekend Mummy came back early and saw how clean the room was.

**All** TA-DA!

**Archie** I can't believe what I am seeing! In our bedroom!

**Simon** It's not what it looks like, Gail. Please listen.

**Archie** I don't give two flying naughty words what you have to say. Get that scrubber out of my house.

**Spencer** GET OUT!

*He swings the space hopper at Moon, taking her down.*

**Archie** I don't know how much more of this I can take.  
Where are my pills?

**Simon** You don't need those pills.

**Archie** What do you naughty word know you naughty word  
naughty word head?

*He giggles.*

**Katie** And then Daddy went on a special holiday to the  
Travelodge.

**All** AND THAT WAS OUR WEEKEND.

*Blackout.*

*School bell rings and we hear the sound of kids bustling through a  
corridor.*

## Scene Two

*Tabs out to reveal Miss Murray's Year Two classroom. The set is  
scaled up so the actors look the size of six-year-olds.*

*The kids are playing. Spencer is throwing himself around in a  
superhero cape. Archie and Katie are arguing over a train set. Moon  
is running around casting spells and Simon sits in the corner, his fingers  
in his ears.*

**Miss Murray** (voice-over) Line up please, Yellow Group.  
Fingers on lips.

**Katie** runs over, followed by Archie and Simon. Moon takes a  
little longer to notice but then joins the line. Spencer doesn't notice for a

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*very long time. He keeps charging about, shouting. The others all look at him.*

**Miss Murray** Spencer . . . Spencer.

**Spencer** *looks over at the others. He walks over, still unsure of what to do.*

**Miss Murray** Spencer! What are all the other boys and girls doing?

**Spencer** *stares vacantly.*

**Miss Murray** Fingers on lips, Spencer.

**Spencer** *puts his whole hand in his mouth.*

**Miss Murray** Alright, close enough. I'm going to leave you alone for a few minutes. But while I'm gone what are we going to do?

**All** Sit quietly.

**Miss Murray** That's right, and what are we not going to do?

**All** Tell the Headmaster we were left alone.

**Miss Murray** Exactly.

**Moon** Why can't we play outside?

**Miss Murray** Because you five are having your break time inside today, aren't you?

*Murmur of agreement.*

**Miss Murray** And why's that?

**Katie** Because of our assembly.

**Miss Murray** Yes, and what happened in the assembly?

**Archie** We added stuff.

**Spencer** Like what I said about my poo.

**Miss Murray** Yes, that was not what we practised, was it?

**Spencer** No.

**Miss Murray** No. Right, I'll be back in a minute.

*We hear the door close and there is another moment of chaos. Archie, Simon and Spencer rush off to the toys in the corner.*

**Katie** No, stop it. We have to be good. Miss Murray said we have to behave.

**Archie** Miss Murray isn't here.

**Moon** Katie, stop being such a worrier and come and play with me.

**Katie** We're supposed to behave.

**Moon** YOU HAVE TO COME AND PLAY WITH ME NOW. Let's play princesses. I'll be the fairy princess and you can be the maid who's not magic.

**Katie** But fairies aren't real.

**Moon** Yes they are.

**Katie** No. Only dinosaurs and Jesus are real.

**Spencer** *is looking around behind the teacher's desk.*

**Katie** Spencer, what are you doing?

**Spencer** *hides something behind his back.*

**Spencer** I found Smarties.

**Katie** No! Those are Miss Murray's Smarties, Spencer, those are for people with ten gold stars, you don't have any gold stars, you have six sad faces and five angry lobsters.

**Spencer** I want the Smarties!

**Moon** No Spencer, put them back, you'll become a handful.

**Katie** No, you have to do what I say, I'm in charge when Miss Murray isn't here. I'm the form monitor.

**Archie** No, you have to do what I say, I'm the lunch monitor and I say you have to give them to me.

**Spencer** No, I'm a monitor lizard and I'm keeping them.

**Katie** Give them back. I'm in charge.

**Moon** Stop being a dictator and do exactly as I say.

**Moon** *grabs the Smarties from* **Spencer**.

**Moon** We have to do a hands-up on who is in charge and they can be the decider.

**Archie** That's called a vote. The suffering jets gave it to you.

**Katie** I'm already in charge!

**Moon** It has to be a mocracy.

**Archie** Democracy will always fail because of loose fiscal policy.

*All look at* **Archie**.

**Archie** I'm precocious.

**Spencer** I should be the leader 'cause I'm the crashiest.

**Archie** No, Spencer. If you're the leader you'll have no time to play with the hamster.

**Spencer** But I want to play with the hamster.

**Archie** Well, if you want I can be the leader so you have time to play with the hamster.

**Spencer** Yeah. Thanks, Archie.

**Archie** And you can be my head of security.

**Spencer** YEAH!

**Archie** Let's shake on it.

**Spencer** *starts shaking*.

**Archie** No we have to do our secret handshake.

*They do a secret handshake.*

**Spencer** VOTE FOR ARCHIE! HAMSTER!

*He runs over to the hamster cage and starts bashing it.*

**Moon** STOP IT, SPENCER! You're such a traumatiser.

**Simon** (*timidly*) P'haps . . . p'haps I should be leader because I would make sure we all share.

*Beat.*

**All** No.

**Archie** You can't be leader, you can't say church.

**Simon** (*lisps*) Yes I can! Church. Church.

*He pushes his cheeks forward.*

Church. See?

**Moon** No one votes for Simon. I should be the leader because –

**Simon** I vote for Moon.

**Moon** NO, SIMON, LET ME FINISH-ER!! You belong in Red Group with all the problems. Who else votes for me?

*She stares at **Katie** until she slowly puts up her hand.*

**Archie** If you vote for Moon you're like Simon.

**All** Urghhhh!

**Katie** *sits on her hands.* **Archie** *smiles scandalously.*

**Archie** Moon loses.

**Moon** No but . . . that's not fair!!

*She throws a huge tantrum, screaming and whining*

**Moon** (*partly improvised with screaming*) ARRGHHH! No! NO! I've had it up to HAAA WAAA YAA! ARGHH!! ARGHHH! I HATE YOU!! ARGHHHH! IT'S NOT FAIR! BECAUSE I'M NOT LIKE SIMON!

*She walks off and lies face down on the floor, sulking.*

**Spencer** *picks up a squishy rounders bat and uses it as a microphone.*

**Spencer** Let's play news. You're the camera, you're newsman.



*He turns to **Simon** and ignores him.*

**Archie** This is election news. But first, it's sports!

**Spencer** *charges at **Simon** with the space-hopper, knocking him over.*

**Spencer** GOAL! One-nil, Simon.

**Archie** That's the sports. And now over to me with the election interviews. **Katie**, why do you think you should be leader?

**Katie** Because when I'm big I'm gonna be prime sinister.

**Archie** And that's the news!

**Moon** DUN-DUN. DUN-DUN.

**Archie** I'll vote for you if you vote for me.

**Katie** Pinky promise?

**Archie** Yeah!

*He links pinkies with **Katie**.*

**Katie** Okay, we can vote now. Moon, who do you vote for?

**Moon** Katie.

**Simon** Me too.

**Moon** You're such a copier.

**Katie** Spencer, who are you voting for?

**Spencer** Archie.

**Katie** Okay. I vote for Archie as well. That's two for Archie and two for Katie. Archie, who do you vote for?

**Archie** I vote for . . . Archie.

*He gives his scandalous smile.*

**Katie** Ahhhh! You liar! You pinky-promised you would vote for me —

**Archie** I had my fingers crossed.

*He shows his fingers crossed.*

**Katie** It's not fair.

**Archie** Take it up with my head of security.

**Spencer** FBI!

*He throws the space-hopper at **Katie**. It bounces off her and he catches it again.*

**Spencer** Crashed it!

**Katie** Archie! You're . . . you're such an f-word.

*She storms off and sits in a huff. **Archie** grabs the Smarties and he and **Spencer** run off to the corner to eat them.*

**Simon** I think you would have been a great leader, Moon.

**Moon** Why?

**Simon** Just cos.

**Moon** Bored now.

**Moon** *skips away.* **Simon** *puffs on his inhaler.*

**Simon** Moon. Moon. Moon!

*He follows **Moon**. **Archie** approaches **Katie**.*

**Archie** Are you okay, Katie? Do you want to play?

**Katie** You're a cheater!

**Archie** You're my best friend.

**Katie** Thought Spencer was your best friend.

**Archie** Yeah, he is, but he's still on adding up and we're on times tables.

**Katie** Ugh. Fine, we can play but only if we play weddings!

**Archie** What?

**Katie** In weddings you get married and then you're my husband and then we have two baby girls and a crippling mortgage.

**Archie** Errr! No, can we play something else?

**Katie** Oh fine, you can be the vicar. Spencer, will you marry me?

**Spencer** Yeah.

**Katie** Yay, we're married. When I grow up I'm going to have a husband and be prime sinister because I'm going to finger all the pies.

**Katie** Now we're married we're in love.

*She jumps on* **Spencer**.

**Spencer** YAY! I LOVE YOU!

*He belly flops onto* **Katie**.

**Spencer** Flopped you!

**Katie** Mummies and daddies have to kiss.

**Spencer** Yuk!

**Archie** I . . . I don't want to be the vicar any more.

**Katie** Too late, you had your chance and you blew it!

**Archie** No, she's my wife.

**Spencer** I saw her first!

**Katie** Stop pulling me, you silly boys.

*She pulls her hand away from* **Archie**, *who stomps off.*

**Katie** Spencer, what are you going to be when you grown up?

**Spencer** Tall.

**Katie** No, like for a job.

*Archie has picked up the Smarties and rattles them.*

**Archie** Spencer! Smarties!

**Spencer** YEAH, SMARTIES!

*He runs over to Archie.*

**Katie** Spencer? Spencer! (*Sighs to herself.*) Men!

*She storms off. Spencer and Archie giggle together and eat Smarties.*

**Archie** What are we going to do with all the rest?

**Spencer** *gasps.* He guides **Archie** over to a grate beside the reading corner.

**Spencer** Look!

*He lifts it up and takes out Action Man, a water pistol and several sets of car keys. He puts the Smarties and the rest of the stuff back in the grate and closes it.*

**Archie** Thanks for voting for me, Spencer.

**Spencer** Voted!

**Archie** You're my actual best friend.

**Spencer** Yeah.

**Archie** *quickly pecks Spencer on the cheek and leaves.* **Spencer** *notices he is alone and looks up at the hamster cage. He grins to himself, climbs up and takes the cage, shaking it a little, giggling softly.*

**Katie** *re-enters.*

**Katie** Oh my goodness! I don't like anything you are doing right now.

**Spencer** But I'm . . . M'not hurtin'.

**Katie** Put Vincent's cage back, Spencer, or you'll be in trouble and you'll have to go in Red Group with Sean Munnery who put an acorn in his bum.

**Spencer** Archie said I can play with the hamster now.

**Katie** No! You're not allowed, Spencer. I am your wife and I'm wearing trousers and I am telling you to put Vincent back now!

**Spencer** Don't care. Divorce!

**Katie** I'm telling Miss Murray of what you're doing.

**Katie** goes. **Spencer** opens the cage and fishes out the hamster, playing with him in his hands, getting more and more excited until . . .

**Spencer** I LOVE YOU!

*He suddenly throws the hamster to the floor and does a belly flop on top of it. He gets back up and sees that the hamster is dead. He tries to shake it back to life.*

Vincent? Vincent? Vincent Van Fluff!

*Starting to panic, he runs back and forth with the dead hamster. He takes some paper from the teacher's desk and draws a crude hamster and sticks it to the front of the cage.*

**Archie** comes back in and sees **Spencer** suddenly looking guilty.

**Archie** What are you doing?

**Spencer** I'm not naughty.

**Archie** Spencer, what's happened?

**Spencer** holds out the dead hamster.

**Archie** Oh my word!

**Spencer** Flopped it!

**Archie** He's dead, Spencer.

**Spencer** We need to give him surgery.

**Spencer** grabs a pair of scissors. He goes to cut the hamster.

**Archie** No! Spencer!

**Spencer** I'm going to be in big trouble!

**Archie** We need to hide the evidence.

*He throws the hamster towards the window, but it is closed and the corpse bounces off the glass.*

**Katie** enters.

**Katie** Miss Murray says she's coming back as soon as she's finished her wine.

*As Katie looks at Archie, Spencer quickly hides the hamster.*

**Katie** Now what are you naughty boys up to?

**Spencer** Simon did it.

**Katie** (*looks inside and screams*) Simon killed Vincent?

**Moon** enters.

**Moon** Whatever you're playing, you have to let me join in now.

**Simon** follows **Moon** in. **Katie** points at him.

**Katie** Hamster murderer!

**Simon** What?

**Katie** takes the dead hamster out the desk and holds it up.

**Moon** Um-ma.

**Katie** He has to go on trial.

**Archie** Spencer, you're the judge, you're the defence banister and I'm the prostitution. Simon is guilty.

**Moon** As the defence, I agree.

**Spencer** Guilty! Guilty! Guilty!

*He hits the desk three times.*

**Simon** It's not true!

**Archie** Shut up, Simon, it's right to remain silent.

**Simon** (*running away*) No!

*He has climbed onto his desk.*

**Katie** He's trying to escape!

**Simon** Don't come any closer actually or I will jump off.

**Moon** No, Simon, you will hurt your elbows and die.

**Katie** I'm getting a teacher!

*She runs out.*

**Simon** I am not guilty of killing Vincent. I have been put inside a frame.

**Archie** Simon, as leader I order you to come down now otherwise Spencer will push you off.

**Spencer** Order in court. Order! Order! Order!

*He hits the floor violently with the space-hopper. Katie enters and they all look up and gasp.*

**Miss Murray** (voice-over) Simon! What are you doing on the desk?!

**Simon** Killing myself.

**Archie** He's a lunatic on the run from justice. He must be executed as a strong detergent.

**Katie** He killed Vincent!

*A terrified silence.*

**Miss Murray** Simon Brown, is this true?

**Simon** wets himself.

**Miss Murray** Oh Simon.

**Spencer** He's let himself down!

**Miss Murray** Spencer, be quiet! Simon, I want you to calm down and tell me what happened.

**Simon** It wasn't me.

**Miss Murray** Spencer. Was this you?

**Spencer** Was not!

*He hurls the dead hamster at the wall.*

**Miss Murray** Spencer! This is the last straw! You are going to have to go into Red Group with Mr Trimmings.

*The group gasp.*

**Archie** It was me, Miss. I killed Vincent. I . . . I flopped him. I was the class leader and it went to my head. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.

**Miss Murray** Well, that's very honest of you, Archie. Spencer, you stay here. Moon and Katie, take Simon to lost property and find him some clean trousers.

**Katie and Moon** *run off and Simon follows.*

**Moon** *(off)* Stand back! He's covered in wee!

**Miss Murray** Spencer, is what Archie is saying true?

**Spencer** *nods.*

**Miss Murray** So you had nothing to do with this?

**Spencer** *shakes his head.*

**Miss Murray** Okay. Archie, do you understand that what you did was very bad?

**Archie** Yes, Miss Murray, but can't we just put this down to the follies of youth?

**Miss Murray** No. I'm going to call your daddy and we are going to have a very serious talk about this. Stay here.

*We hear Miss Murray leave again.*

**Spencer** Thanks, Archie. I owe you one.

**Archie** It's okay, Spencer.

**Spencer** *takes off his cape and gives it to Archie.*

**Archie** Love you.

**Spencer** Yeah.

*They hug each other. Lights fade.*

*The cast perform a medley of Nineties songs as the set changes.*



## Act Two

*The same classroom. Summer 2001.*

*Everything now appears regular size. The vibrant colours are now muted and drab. Different toys line the shelves, including a few musical instruments that sit in the corner. The lights are dimmed and it is dark outside.*

**Moon** *climbs up the tree and in through the window and turns on the lights.*

*She is now thirteen and wearing a school uniform with her skirt rolled up as short as possible with heavily applied make-up. Her mobile phone rings. She doesn't answer. It rings again. She doesn't answer. It rings again and she picks up.*

**Moon** *(on phone)* Daddy, stop calling . . . I don't know when I'll be home . . . Because there's end-of-year parties tonight . . . I'm not a baby, Daddy. In two weeks I'm fourteen and then I can like legally have sex in Germany . . . No, I'm not in Germany, Daddy . . . No, it's not going to be like last time . . . Because I'm different now . . . I'm like a totally new person actually. Like completely new. Oh my God, I'm New Moon! Fine, stop my allowance.

**Archie** *appears in the window and climbs in.*

**Moon** Well, maybe, I'll just like get a job and then what? . . . Oh *putain vous*, Papa! Daddy? Dad? Daddy? Daddy? . . . Daddy? Dad! Daddy? Dad. Dad. Dad. Dad. Dad. Dad.

*She hangs up and throws her phone on the floor.*

**Archie** Who was that?

**Moon** My dad. He's such a pleb. He was like, you can't go out this Friday because we have to spend time as a 'family'.

**Archie** Yeah. My dad's such a div too, he like forced me to quit the school play so I could do football, which is like fine because I love football but like – yeah.

**Moon** *takes out her gum and kisses Archie horribly before putting her gum back in her mouth.*

**Archie** Was that enough tongue?

**Moon** Plenty.

**Archie** I can do more.

**Moon** Maybe do less. Maybe flick it around like less?

**Archie** Okay.

*They kiss again.*

**Moon** What are you thinking about?

**Archie** Spencer.

**Moon** What?

**Archie** I was just, like . . . wondering when he's gonna get here. I'm worried about him. He was really weird last week at band practice.

**Moon** It's so hot you're in a band. Are you still thinking of changing the name?

**Archie** No, I think we are gonna stick with The Five Angry Lobsters.

**Moon** Yeah, hot. You know Stacy Jordan in the year above's having a house party tonight and Richard Taylor invited me to go with him.

**Archie** Cool.

**Moon** Aren't you like jealous?

**Archie** No.

**Moon** *looks at him.*

**Archie** Yes. Yeah, super jealous.

*Beat.*

**Moon** Do you want to touch my boob?

**Archie** (*faked enthusiasm*) Yeah.

*He hesitantly considers how to do it. He eventually places the back of his hand on her left breast.*

**Moon** What's it like?

**Archie** Yep, it's sick.

**Moon** Do the other one.

**Archie** Mmm.

*He moves his hand to the right.*

**Moon** What's that one like?

**Archie** Similar.

**Moon** This is so bangin'.

**Archie** Yeah, I'm well turned on.

**Moon** Are you?

**Archie** Should I be?

**Moon** Yeah.

**Archie** Then yeah.

**Katie** *appears at the window.*

**Katie** Hey!

**Archie** Katie!

**Moon** Oh my God, hey!

**Archie** How are you doing?

**Katie** (*tense*) I'm okay.

**Moon** Oh my God, stop stressing. I'm sure you did fine.

**Archie** Yeah.

**Katie** It's the End of Year's, Moon.

**Moon** Exactly. It's the end of the year. Surely even you can chill tonight.

**Katie** Moon, like this stuff actually matters.

**Archie** When is Spencer coming?

**Katie** He's just bringing the alcohol.

**Archie** Wicked! I'll go help.

*He climbs out of the window.*

**Katie** Moon, this stuff is so important to our future.

**Moon** Eeww, stop talking about the future. You literally sound like a menopause.

**Katie** If I don't get top marks then Mr Murray-White says I don't get to start an extra GCSE next year and if I can't start an extra GCSE then I won't get into a top university and then I'll have ruined everything before I've even started. Are you not worried about supporting yourself when you're older?

**Moon** No, 'cause by then my dad'll be dead and I'll be like bare rich.

**Simon** (*off*) Moon?

**Moon** Ohh who told Simon about this?

**Simon** (*off*) Moon!

**Katie** He's such a loser.

**Moon** I told him once that I like Starburst and now he's like always bringing them to me. But he still calls them Opal Fruits.

*She up-turns her bag and huge amounts of Starburst pour out.*

Oh I swear to god! Katie, just get rid of him.

**Simon** (*off*) Moon!

**Moon** *hides in the corridor.* **Simon** *appears at the window.*

**Simon** Moon?

**Katie** No.

**Simon** Oh, hey Katie. Is Moon here?

**Katie** No.

**Simon** Are you sure?

**Katie** Yes, Simon!

**Simon** Nah, this is exactly like at James Plant's house party when I got there and everyone hid in the garage and James Plant's dad said there wasn't a party and I went home on the bus and then James Plant emailed me a photo of the party and I was gonna go back but it was too late because the photo took like three hours to download.

*He takes a puff on his inhaler.*

**Katie** Well, she's not here.

**Simon** Arghh! I can't find her anywhere and her dad called me and told me she's not come home and she could be in danger.

**Katie** Simon, you need to stop stalking her. Moon doesn't like you.

**Simon** I don't like her. I'm just like concerned for her safety and me and her dad are friends, he said I'm a sensible young man and he lets me call him Nige.

**Katie** Ah, Simon, if you like her that much why don't you just ask her out?

**Simon** Are you insane? I can't ask her out. I gotta play the long game. Get in with her dad, do odd-jobs at her house, become part of the family.

**Katie** Like her brother?

**Simon** No, not like her brother . . . like a . . . a forbidden cousin . . . but it's okay because they both want it.

**Moon** *bursts in.*

**Moon** OH MY GOD WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?

**Simon** Moon. Hi.

**Moon** Argh! What do you want?

**Simon** Nige's really worried about you.

**Moon** It's nothing to do with you and stop calling him Nige!  
It's so unsettling.

**Simon** I'm always here for you.

**Moon** No, you're not, you're just always here.

**Simon** I brought you some Opal Fruits.

*He offers her a few packets of Starburst.*

**Moon** STARBURST! They're called Starburst! You're such  
a weird little stick.

**Simon** I'm not.

**Moon** Yes, you are. Puberty is like a pipe dream for you.

**Simon** It has started. What are you guys doing here anyway?  
Are you having a party?

**Katie** No.

**Spencer and Archie** *appear at the window with a pack of blue  
WKDs. They open the window.*

**Spencer/Archie** WAAZZUP!

**Moon/Katie/Simon** WAZZUUUUPPP!

**Spencer and Archie** *climb in.*

**Spencer** Simon, you scrotum, got any pubes yet?

**Simon** Yeah, loads.

**Moon/Archie/Katie/Spencer** Errrrr!

**Simon** I mean, none.

**Moon/Archie/Katie/Spencer** Ahhhh!

**Simon** I mean I've got . . . like the normal amount.

**Spencer** Mate, who invited Simon?

**Moon** No one.

**Archie** I guess he's here now.

**Simon** Yes! In the party!

*He takes out a disposable camera and takes a photo of himself.*

**Moon** Oh my God, did you just take a photo of yourself?  
That is so sad.

**Archie** Spencer's sister bought us four blue WKDs.

**Spencer** And . . .

*He holds out another larger bottle.*

**Moon** (*reading*) Armagnac?

**Spencer** Skanked it off my nan.

**Archie** That's jokes.

**Spencer** and **Archie** *do their 'secret handshake', which is now very complicated.*

**Katie** What if you get caught?

**Spencer** I'll just say . . . (*Sings.*) 'It wasn't me'.

**Spencer** *begins to sing 'It Wasn't Me' by Shaggy. All characters join in before Simon runs in to take the rap solo. Simon gets into a break-dancing headstand. He struggles to sustain it, constantly pushing his feet back up.*

**Simon** Yeah . . . Yeah . . . Yeah.

**Spencer** Simon, you are irrelevant, mate.

**Simon** *puffs on his inhaler. Spencer nervously goes over to Katie.*  
*Pause.*

**Spencer** Wasup Katie.

**Katie** Wasup Spence.

*Silence.*

See you later.

**Spencer** Yeah, safe.

*He goes off to the corner with Archie and Simon, where they open the WKDs and start mixing them with the Armagnac. Moon runs over to Katie.*

**Moon** OMG, what is going on with you and Spencer?

**Katie** (*giggles*) Nothing.

**Moon** Oh my God, where's your make-up?

**Katie** I don't have any.

**Moon** Okay, there's no need to freak out. I'm here for you. Sit down. I can't believe you didn't tell me. Oh my God, this is like your first-ever big-deal crush.

**Katie** I don't know if I want make-up.

**Moon** *doesn't stop.*

**Moon** What are you talking about? Don't worry, we'll make it super subtle. If you don't wear make-up he'll never ask you out.

*She takes some deodorant and sprays Katie, then sprays some up her own skirt.*

**Katie** But that's the thing.

**Moon** Oh my God, shut up. Stop it. Start talking. Tell me everything. He asked you out?!

**Katie** We . . . we kissed.

**Moon** UHHH! UHHHH!

**Moon** *collapses on the floor groaning with excitement.*



**Katie** Shhh.

**Moon** AHhh! Like how? Was he good? We have to score him in my book of boys.

*She takes out a notebook.*

We can put him after all my ones.

*She flips through many, many pages, eventually closing the book.*

Do you have any paper?

**Katie** No.

**Moon** Did he use tongue?

**Katie** No.

**Moon** Okay, then the highest that can get is like a four.

**Katie** It was really gentle.

**Moon** Eww, you need to do it with tongues. Okay tell me everything.

**Katie** Well, like a month ago we were in Biology and Spence got moved to the front to sit with me so he'd be good and at first he was like, 'Aww Katie, you're such a boff.' But then later he was like, 'Aww Katie, that's a well neat table.' And I was like, 'Yeah I know.' And then we stayed after class –

**Simon** *has walked over. Katie and Moon stare at him.*

**Simon** Hey.

**Katie/Moon** No.

**Simon** *walks away again.*

**Katie** So then we stayed after school to talk about cells and the stuff Spence was saying was like philosophy, but he didn't like know it was philosophy but he's like really deep.

**Moon** Oh my God I love accidentally deep boys.

**Katie** He's actually really sensitive.

**Spencer** Oi-oi!

**Spencer** *farts loudly, holding a lighter behind him so the fart ignites in a small ball of fire.*

**Katie** And then like . . . we looked at each other and then we kissed.

**Moon** Oh my God! You know what else you need to do? You need to graze his dick.

**Katie** What?

**Moon** Boys love it! Next time you're near him just like reach over him to get like a book or something and as you come back just like graze his dick. I'll draw it for you.

**Spencer** *(over the other side of the room)* Oi, Simon. You wanna be in Five Angry Lobsters?

**Simon** No, no, no, you always do this.

**Spencer** No, we mean it this time. Richard Taylor's quit so we need someone.

**Archie** Yeah we can't play Guns N' Roses covers without a recorder player.

*He laughs scandalously.*

**Spencer** Yeah man, come to rehearsal tomorrow.

**Simon** Where is it?

**Spencer** Ipswich.

**Simon** No! No! I'm not going. I still owe my dad for the train to Swansea and there definitely wasn't a rehearsal there.

**Archie** No, not Swansea, Suzie's. You misheard.

**Spencer** This week it's definitely in Ipswich.

**Simon** Okay great. I'll see you there.

**Spencer** Yeah man. Wicked.

**Spencer** and **Archie** *laugh and walk off.* **Spencer** *smiles at Katie who smiles back.* **Simon** *follows.*

**Moon** Oh my God, stop flirting.

**Katie** I wasn't.

**Moon** I'm joking. Flirt way harder.

**Katie** I'm really worried about him though. Mr Murray-White said they'll make him retake Year Nine if he fails his end-of-year.

**Moon** Oh my God you cannot go out with someone in the year below, that's gross.

**Katie** I really don't want to split up with him.

**Moon** But you'll be in Year Ten in the Science Lab and he'll be downstairs in the Geography room and long-distance relationships don't work.

**Katie** He's been working really hard so I'm sure he's going to pass anyway.

**Moon** But it's never gonna work if you've not even kissed with tongues. Oh my God I know how to make Spencer kiss you with tongues.

**Katie** I . . . I don't know –

**Moon** Don't worry I'll be like super subtle about it. TRUTH OR DARE!!

**All** Yeah!

**Simon** *grabs Spencer.*

**Simon** Spence. Can I talk to you?

**Spencer** Sure. By the way puberty called, said it's running very late for your appointment.

**Simon** Are you sure Moon likes me?

**Spencer** What?

**Simon** You told me in RE.

**Spencer** (*laughing*) Oh yeah, yeah, man, she told me yesterday on MSN. She's just too intimidated by your body.

**Simon** I don't know what to do though?

**Spencer** Lay it on the line and tell her how you feel as publicly as possible. Girls love that.

**Simon** What if you dare me to kiss Moon in truth or dare? That would be well romantic right?

**Spencer** Right.

**Moon** Guys, sit down! Katie's going first?

**Katie** Why don't we spin a bottle to see who goes first?

**Moon** . . . Fine.

**Katie** *takes one of the bottles and spins. The bottle lands on Moon.*

**Moon** Oh my God. Truth! No, dare! No, truth! No! I don't have any secrets, so dare! Oh my God, Katie, what are you going to make me do?

**Katie** Er, okay . . . um . . . um . . .

**Moon** OH MY GOD, KATIE, WHAT ARE GOING TO MAKE ME DO?

**Katie** Okay. I dare you to go out into the corridor and press your boobs against the glass!

**Moon** OMG! OMG! I can't do it! I'm totally gonna do it!

*She runs outside and presses her (clothed) chest against the glass.*

*(Muffled by the glass.)* Oh my God! Oh my God!

*She comes back in.*

Oh my God, you're like welcome.

**Spencer** That was epic.

**Archie** Spin it again.

**Moon** spins again. While everyone's watching the bottle she looks at **Katie** and mouths 'Graze his dick'. The bottle lands on **Simon**.

**Simon** Oh no. It's me . . . Oh, I can't believe it. Dare.

**Spencer** Okay, Simon, I dare you to –

*Whispers to* **Katie**.

**Katie** Put your dick in the hamster cage.

**All** Ahhh!

**Simon** No! No! Spence was gonna do one!

**Spencer** Nah, man, that's better. Do that. Definitely do that.

**Simon** What . . . just like . . . stick it in bare? I can't do that to Rodent Keating.

**Spencer** You got to.

**Archie** Yeah! Go on, Simon.

**Moon** We won't tell anyone.

**Archie** (*clapping*) Simon! Simon!

**All** Simon! Simon! Simon!

*The others clap and chant as* **Simon** *nervously walks over to the hamster cage. He tentatively takes out his penis, opens the door on the cage and puts it inside.*

**All** Wheeey!

*General vamp until:*

**Spencer** Simon, you fiend.

*Beat.*

**Simon** Now what?

**Spencer** You've got to stay there for twenty minutes.

**Simon** But what if it – ARGH!

*The hamster bites **Simon** and he becomes stuck in the cage.*

**Others** ARGHH!

**Simon** *manages to remove the hamster from himself, leaving it in the cage.*

**Simon** It's not funny!

**Archie** Oh my God, I can't believe you took Rodent Keating's virginity.

**Spencer** Ha! Gay!

**Spencer, Katie and Moon** *laugh.*

**Simon** How do you like this, Spencer? If I'm gay, I dare you to kiss Archie.

**Katie/Moon** Ohhh!

**Spencer** I don't care.

**Archie** Nah, Spencer's not kissing me.

**Simon** Go on, you've gotta kiss, you've gotta kiss!

**Archie** I'm not kissing him.

**Spencer** Come on, man. Don't be gay, just kiss me.

**Moon** Arch, go ahead, it's fine.

**Spencer** *moves over to* **Archie**.

**Archie** No, I don't want to.

**Spencer** Don't be frigid.

**Archie** No! It's not normal!

*An awkward beat.*

**Spencer** Okay, I'll just do another one.

**Moon** I dare you to kiss –

**Katie** *(in panic)* Photocopy your bum.

*All laugh.*

**Archie** Yeah, in the staff room! Come on!

**Spencer and Archie** go.

**Moon** What are you doing? I was gonna dare him. Don't you want to do it?

**Katie** I do, I just, I don't know if I'm ready.

**Moon** Oh my God, you're so frigid. Archie touched my boobs already.

**Katie** Did he? Oh my God, I'm so happy for you.

**Simon** Ahh! Who's – who's – who's touching boobs? Why would anyone be touching boobs? No one should be touching anyone's boobs. Nige would not be happy if he found out someone was touching boobs.

**Moon** What, you're gonna tell my dad my boyfriend touched my boobs?

**Simon** If you want me to.

**Moon** No, I don't want you to.

**Simon** Sure. I won't tell your dad. I'm just, you know, keeping an eye on you. And them.

*Points at Moon's boobs.*

**Moon** Ew!

**Katie** You creepy goblin.

**Simon** I mean I'm not watching them, I'm just watching out for them. Like a security guard looking after some precious jewels.

**Moon** What?

**Simon** It's not like I'm looking at them. It's like if I look at your eyes they're there, you know? Like in my peripherals.

*He holds up his hand blocking them from his view.* **Spencer and Archie** come back.

**Katie** Oh my God, did you do it?

**Archie** He half did it. Ran out of ink.

**Spencer** It's a shame, it was just getting good.

*He shows half a photocopy of his arse (the ink having run out after three-quarters of the first cheek).*

**Moon** (*tapping Katie*) Then you have to do another one.

**Simon** I've got a dare for Spencer.

**Spencer** Truth.

**Archie** Okay! Why did you really miss football practice last week?

**Spencer** Like I said, I was ill.

**Archie** Yeah, but you'd been fine all day. Come on. Truth. Where were you?

**Spencer** I was ill, man.

**Archie** No, you weren't.

**Moon** Truth! Truth! Truth!

**Spencer** I was . . . I was at Mr Turner's house.

**Archie** What? Why?!

**Spencer** He's been tutoring me.

**Moon** Even Simon doesn't have tutoring.

**Simon** Yeah! He's even worse than me!

**Simon** *goes to fist-bump Archie but he ignores him.*

**Spencer** I can't do the homework.

**Archie** Which subject?

**Spencer** All of them.

**Archie** But I do your homework.

**Spencer** Well, not any more.



**Spencer** *looks at Katie.*

**Spencer** Let's just go again.

*He spins and it lands on Simon.*

**Spencer** I've got a dare for Simon. Right, look at Moon.

**Moon** Gross.

**Spencer** (*winks at Moon*) Yeah, get like really close to her.

**Moon** Oh my God, yeah, get like super close to me.

**Simon** Yeah?

**Spencer** Yeah.

**Simon** *leans in closer.*

**Moon** Oh my God, Archie must be so jealous right now.

**Archie** *is playing snake on his phone.*

**Archie** Hmm, yeah.

**Spencer** Now, I dare you . . . to kiss . . .

**Moon** *puckers her lips.*

**Spencer** The fish in the Science Block.

**Simon** Oh come on!

*The others cheer as Simon trudges out of the room.*

**Moon** Oh my God!

**Simon** Don't make me kiss Scale Winton.

**Moon** *leaves. Everyone follows Moon except for Spencer, who holds back. He takes out an exam paper and small booklet that was rolled up in the back of his trousers. He flattens them out on the desk and starts reading. Katie comes back in.*

**Katie** What you doing?

**Spencer** *quickly hides the papers.*

**Spencer** Nothing. You still coming over tomorrow?

**Katie** Yeah.

**Spencer** Wanna get Blockbusters?

**Katie** Yeah okay. What's out?

**Spencer** *The Mummy Returns.*

*He awkwardly lurches at her pretending to be a mummy.*

**Katie** *laughs and they kiss.*

**Spencer** Was that okay?

**Katie** Yeah.

**Spencer** Can you taste the Polos?

**Katie** Yeah, really strongly.

**Spencer** I've been eating them like all day.

**Katie** How many have you had?

**Spencer** Just like a couple of packs.

**Katie** Aren't they a laxative?

**Spencer** *(not understanding)* Definitely. Tryna cover the taste of Discos from break time.

**Katie** Yeah, I can still taste them a bit.

**Spencer** Sorry. Cheese and onion really hangs on.

*They kiss again and Katie tries to casually graze Spencer's dick but accidentally hits him hard in the balls.*

**Spencer** Argh!

**Katie** Oh my God, I'm so sorry!

**Spencer** What are you doing?

**Katie** Moon told me to.

**Spencer** Hit me in the balls?

**Katie** No, graze your dick.

**Spencer** Graze my dick?!

**Katie** She said boys like that.

**Spencer** I didn't like that at all.

**Katie** I'm so sorry!

**Spencer** It's okay, it doesn't hurt.

**Katie** Really?

**Spencer** No man. It canes.

**Katie** I'm so sorry, I'm such an idiot. I was just trying to . . .  
to . . . I'm no good at this.

*Embarrassed, Katie walks over to the desk. Spencer awkwardly  
takes a piece of folded paper out of his pocket.*

**Spencer** It's alright. Listen, um . . . I wrote you something –  
Katie?

**Katie** (*seeing the exam paper on the desk*) What's this?

**Spencer** *puts down his folded paper.*

**Spencer** Oh that's . . . um, that's . . .

**Katie** Your end-of-year.

**Spencer** Um, yeah.

**Katie** Where did you find this?

**Spencer** In the staff room.

**Katie** Are these the answers?

*Silence.*

Spencer, why?

**Spencer** I don't know, it was just there and I thought I'd  
take it. I didn't plan to.

**Katie** You don't need to change your paper. All that revision  
we did. You might have passed.

**Spencer** Come on.

**Katie** What?

**Spencer** Well, it's easy for you isn't it? Like . . . academia. I'm not smart like you.

**Katie** Yes, you are.

**Spencer** No, I'm not. I thought Asia was in Africa.

**Katie** But Spence, that doesn't mean you can cheat.

**Spencer** Well, how else am I supposed to pass?

**Katie** Do you know how hard I've worked for the end-of-years? If you just copy out the answers how's that fair?

**Spencer** You can cheat too.

*She looks at him.*

**Spencer** Alright, but like if I fail and get held back . . . are you still gonna want go out with me?

**Katie** I don't want to go out with you if you're a cheat. Then you're just like my dad.

**Spencer** *gives Katie his paper.* **Archie** *re-enters.*

**Archie** That fish was pissed off! What's going on?

**Spencer** Nothing.

**Archie** Is that your end-of-year?!

**Spencer** No.

**Archie** Have they been marked?

**Spencer** Not yet.

**Archie** Oh my God that's amazing, we can redo your paper!

**Spencer** Nah. I don't want to.

**Archie** Why? Spence, change your answers and you won't get held back.

**Spencer** What if I've passed?

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**Archie** Come on. Look, it doesn't matter, I'm putting it back in the staff room.

**Moon and Simon** *enter.*

**Moon** What's happening? What's the gossip? You have to tell me right now.

**Spencer** Nothing.

**Archie** Spencer's cheating on his end-of-years.

**Katie** No he's not!

**Moon** YES, CHANGE YOUR GRADE SO YOU DON'T FAIL!

**Spencer** I might have passed!

**Moon** Come on.

**Spencer** *looks at Katie.*

**Spencer** I'm not changing it.

**Archie** Spence, what is going on with you? You're like a completely different person lately.

**Simon** Yeah, where's our bro?

**Archie/Spencer** Shut up, Simon.

**Spencer** Just leave it. I'm not cheating.

*He picks up his folded paper. Archie notices and grabs it out of his hand.*

**Archie** What's this?

**Spencer** Oi, give it!

*He chases Archie, who darts around desks, easily escaping him.*

**Archie** Are these the new lyrics for Trigonometry Blues?

**Spencer** No, it's a new song.

**Archie** Oh, new song! Well, if it's a new song then we all better hear it.

**Moon/Katie/Simon** Yeah!

*During the above, **Spencer** attempts numerous times to get the paper back from **Archie**.*

**Archie** You want it?

**Spencer** Archie, give it back.

***Archie** puts it behind his back and **Simon** intercepts it.*

**Spencer** Simon, you chode.

**Moon** Simon, give it to me.

**Simon** Yes, Moon.

***Simon** runs across the room to give the paper to **Moon**. As he does so, **Spencer** grabs **Simon**'s backpack and **Simon** wriggles himself free. **Spencer** attempts to get the paper off **Moon**, who is standing on a table.*

**Moon** (*while repeatedly hitting **Spencer***) Can't hit a girl back. Can't a hit a girl back. Can't hit a girl back.

***Moon** passes the paper to **Archie**, who is standing on the teacher's desk with the guitar.*

**Moon/Katie/Simon** Play it! Play it! Play it!

**Spencer** Arch, give it back.

**Archie** If you want it, come and get it.

**Spencer** Fine. I will.

**Archie** (*jumping off the desk*) See you later. Come on, Spencer, let's have a listen.

**Moon/Katie/Simon** PLAY IT! PLAY IT! PLAY IT!

**Spencer** *is clearly embarrassed, but the others join in the game and he gives up protesting.* **Archie** *begins performing* **Spencer's** *song.*

**Archie** *(sings)*

I have a secret. A secret in my heart.  
Thursdays are my favourite days,  
Sitting next to you in Art.

**Spencer** That's not even how you sing it.

**Archie** How do you sing it? *(Sings.)* 'Sitting next to you in Art.' *(Speaks.)* It doesn't matter.

*(Sings.)* Wednesdays were the best days,  
For being near to you  
Till I got moved down in Science  
And now I'm in Group Two.

**Spencer** *attempts again to get the paper off* **Archie.**

**Spencer** Arch, come on.

**Archie** *(sings)*

I'm so happy to be more than your matey  
I'm so happy when we go on a datey  
Hold my hand because I love you K . . . Ka . . .

Cool. Cool song, Spence.

**Archie** *hands it back to* **Spencer** *and puts down the guitar, clearly hurt.*

**Katie** *goes over to* **Spencer** *and holds his hand.* **Simon** *picks up the guitar and sings to the tune of Vengaboys' 'Boom Boom Boom Boom'.*

**Simon**

Moon Moon Moon Moon!  
I want you in my room.  
We'll spend the night together  
Because you're in my room.

**Moon** Shut up, Simon! Archie, don't you even care that I keep getting hit on by this, like, crab. You're supposed to be my boyfriend.

**Simon** *dejectedly puts the guitar down.*

**Archie** No I don't care. Really.

**Moon** What?

**Archie** Nothing.

**Moon** What do you mean, you don't care?

**Archie** I just . . . I just don't care.

**Moon** OH. MY. GOD. You're a worse boyfriend than Sean Munnery and he kept trying to feed me acorns. You are so dumped.

**Simon** Thank you, Vengaboys.

**Archie** *(almost in tears)* Whatever, I don't even like you anyway.  
*He starts to storm off.*

**Spencer** *(calling after him)* Arch.

**Archie** Just . . . leave me alone.

*He tries to slam the door behind him but it is on a closer so will only close very slowly.*

SLAM!

*He runs off.*

**Moon** Oh my God. That was bang out of order!

**Katie** Oh Moon, I'm so sorry. You'll find someone else.

**Moon** I know. I was two-timing him with Richard Taylor anyway. I just can't believe I let him touch my boobs.

**Simon** Moon, I need to speak to you publicly.

**Spencer** *(coughs)* Don't do it.



**Simon** Moon, this might come as a shock but I really . . .  
I really like you.

**Spencer** (*coughs*) Leave it, you bellend.

**Simon** I know you're scared of my body. But that's okay,  
I am too.

**Spencer** Aw, mate.

**Moon** OMG. Look, Simon. I don't like, like you like that.  
You know? I like you as like a friend.

**Simon** But maybe I can take that and build on it?

**Moon** No, because it's not like that, like, that's not how  
liking someone, like, works. You either like them like, like like  
them or you just like don't like them like that. You just like, like  
them. Do you understand?

*Beat.*

**Simon** No.

**Moon** I see you just as a friend.

**Simon** Yeah, but that's nearly a boyfriend.

**Moon** Yeah, but I see you like a girlfriend –

**Simon** *looks destroyed.*

**Moon** (*trying to be nice but not sure how*) – with a penis, but not  
like a sex penis. Like a medical penis.

**Simon** You see me like a girlfriend with a medical penis?

**Moon** Yeah.

**Simon** But Spencer said you liked me.

*Everyone looks at Spencer.*

**Spencer** *goes to speak but instead runs out the door. Katie awkwardly  
shuffles to the door and follows him out, shrugging apologetically.*

**Simon** *collapses, weeping. An awkward silence. Moon offers Simon  
a Starburst.*

**Moon** You want an Opal Fruit?

**Simon** *takes one.* **Moon** *sits next to him and opens the rest of the packet.*

**Moon** Come on, Simon. I like you. I just don't like your personality.

**Simon** I can change my personality.

**Moon** No, you shouldn't change yourself. I'll find someone like me – (*Indicates with her hands.*) And you'll find someone like you. (*Holds her hands lower down.*)

**Simon** *sobs loudly.*

**Moon** Look I'm not . . . I'm not saying never.

**Simon** You're not?

**Moon** I mean, who knows? Maybe one day when we're older.

**Simon** When we're like twenty.

**Moon** No, when we're really old, like thirty. When I need someone who's like always there for me.

**Simon** Okay.

**Moon** Look, we're friends, Simon, but you really must stop being friends with me in front of other people.

**Simon** Yes, Moon.

**Katie and Spencer** *come back in.*

**Spencer** Can't find him anywhere.

**Moon** I don't even care what Archie does, he's like dead to me now. Do you guys want to come to the year-above's party?

**Katie** Um.

**Moon** Katie, I need you right now! I'm fragile!

**Katie** Yeah, okay. You coming, Spence?

**Spencer** (*hesitates, looking at the door*) Nah. I should stay.

**Katie** Yeah, look after Archie.

**Spencer** I'll catch you up.

**Moon** and **Katie** *turn to leave.*

**Simon** Moon, do I come?

**Moon** What have we just spoken about, Simon?

**Simon** Yes, Moon. I'll tell Nige you'll be home late.

**Moon** Yeah, whatever.

*She and Katie climb out of the window. Spencer heads back into the corridor.*

*Archie comes back in through the other door, holding a new exam paper. He picks up Spencer's old paper and takes out a pen from the desk and starts copying Spencer's name from one paper to the other.*

**Spencer** (*calls from off*) Arch?

*Archie quickly hides the original paper behind the grate, replacing the grate just as Spencer enters.*

**Spencer** There you are. Are you alright?

**Archie** Yeah, fine. I was just . . . Just gonna put your paper back in the staff room.

**Spencer** Oh, thanks man.

**Archie** Yeah. So uh . . . you and Katie?

**Spencer** Yeah. It's pretty serious, we've been together like a whole month. Katie's so smart. She should probably be with someone like you.

**Archie** Nah.

**Spencer** Don't worry about Moon. You're gonna find someone you really like.

**Archie** Yeah. I'm not sure I will.

**Spencer** Of course you will.

**Archie** Anyway, see you tomorrow.

**Spencer** Tomorrow?

**Archie** Band practice.

**Spencer** Yeah, sorry, I can't. Katie's coming round.

**Archie** Oh. No worries.

**Spencer** Here, I should take that back.

**Archie** No, it's fine, I'll do it. You go catch up with Katie.

**Spencer** Cool. Thanks, Arch.

*He climbs out of the window.*

**Archie** Got your back.

*He takes out his pen and starts filling in the exam paper as the lights come down.*

*Interval.*

## *Act Three*

*The same classroom. Autumn 2019.*

*Lights up to reveal our classroom – still clearly the same room but the walls have faded and the furniture has changed to more modern equivalents. It's early evening. A large banner hanging over the board reads WELCOME BACK CLASS OF 2004. A buffet table has been set up stage left. Distant music can be heard coming down the hall from the main party downstairs.*

**Spencer** *enters, now thirty-one, in beige chinos and a suede jacket over a white band T-shirt.*

*The memories of this room hit him as he walks in . . . they're not great. He looks around for a bit, noticing what's changed. He goes over to a new cage in the corner. He wiggles his finger at the hamster inside and the whole cage lurches to one side as the hamster runs away from him, having picked up an instinctive bad feeling*

*He leans on the teacher's desk and accidentally presses a button on the remote for the smartboard projector which springs to life.*

**Voice** It's time to learn about the reproductive cycle of the salmon!

*He frantically turns it off. Archie comes in, wearing a well-tailored suit.*

**Archie** Spence!

**Spencer** Archie! Good to see you, man.

**Archie** Good to see you! Hey!

*He holds out his hand and the two begin their secret handshake, neither really remembers it and it peters out.*

**Archie** Good one.

**Spencer** Yeah, how long's it been? Four . . . five years?

**Archie** Four years, eight months . . . thirteen days.

**Spencer** Wow, that's – good memory.

**Archie** It was my wedding.

**Spencer** Counting the days, are you?

*He laughs. Archie laughs a little too much.*

**Spencer** When was it before that? The funeral?

**Archie** Yeah, poor Mrs Murray-White. I didn't get a chance to speak to you but I saw you there, you were having one of those cheese-and-pineapple, cocktail-stick things. *(Pause.)* Everyone's so different now.

**Spencer** *bites into a sandwich and spills jam down his front. He tries to wipe it away, making a stain.*

**Spencer** Yeah, we've all really changed. What are you up to these days? Still a prosecutor?

**Archie** Yep. Yep.

**Spencer** Enjoying it?

**Archie** Yeah. Yeah.

*He notices Spencer's T-shirt.*

**Archie** Oh, are you still playing the . . .

*He plays some air guitar.*

**Spencer** Keyboard, yeah.

**Archie** Not with the . . .?

**Spencer** Angry Lobsters? Big time. Big time. After seven attempts we're finally going to Glastonbury.

**Archie** Amazing. Which stage are you playing?

**Spencer** Oh no, we're not playing. We're just going, but Mr Murray-White said we could do a song after the alumni awards if we want.

**Archie** Oh, great.

**Spencer** You, uh, enjoying the awards?

**Archie** Yeah, James Plant just won Most Kids.

**Spencer** How many?

**Archie** Seven.

**Spencer** Was he pleased?

**Archie** He's not here. Couldn't get a babysitter. Are you still doing that night school you mentioned a few years back?

**Spencer** Nah, chunked it in in the end. Not my vibe.

**Archie** I'm sure it could be.

**Spencer** Nah, school's never been my thing.

**Archie** Where are you working now?

**Spencer** Pet shop. Little, local . . . just round the corner, used to be the Blockbusters.

**Archie** Great.

**Spencer** Did you do anything nice over the summer?

**Archie** Yes, we went to Kenya.

**Spencer** Wow. I'd love to go to Asia.

**Archie** Yeah. It's certainly beautiful. It's good to see you, I'm so glad you came.

**Spencer** Yeah, me too. I almost didn't, to be honest.

**Archie** Why?

**Spencer** Well, technically it's not my reunion. I didn't know if I'd be a bit – you know.

**Archie** Don't be silly, we're all friends, no one cares if you ended up in the year below.

*Silence.*

**Spencer** How's your dad?

**Archie** I don't know.

*Long silence.*

You look good –

**Paul** *enters.*

**Paul** Hey! Look who it is! It's these guys! How the bloody hell are you two legends doing?

**Archie** Haha! It's you!

**Paul** *embraces them both deeply.*

**Paul** It's me . . . Paul!

**Spencer** Paul!

**Paul** Haha! The King of Bantchester himself! Squire!

*Laughing, Paul bows to Archie and Spencer.*

**Spencer** Squire.

*Bows.*

**Archie** How are you?

**Paul** I'm very well, thank you. I bet you thought I wouldn't be able to make it!

**Archie** Yeah.

**Paul** Obviously it's been epic to get here.

**Spencer** Of course.

**Paul** You two look great.

**Archie** You're looking very well too.

**Spencer** Yeah, really well.

**Paul** So good to see you both.

**Spencer** Good to see you too.

**Paul** Let's get this booze-cruiser back on the ocean blue.

*He gives a couple of pulls on an imaginary cord and makes ship horn noises.*

Leaving harbour! See you boys in a bit.



*They all laugh happily.*

**Paul** Wheyy! LADIES!

**Archie** and **Spencer** *copy him, laughing and making lad noises.*

**Archie/Spencer** Wheyyy!

**Paul** *exits laughing.*

**Archie** Who was that?

**Spencer** I've no idea. I don't remember him at all. What was this?

*He repeats the move.*

**Archie** I could not tell you.

**Spencer** Yeah.

**Archie** I don't really know what it means.

**Spencer** I guess it means he . . . likes . . .

**Archie** Ladies.

**Spencer** Yeah.

**Paul** *comes back.*

**Paul** Wheeey!

**Spencer** and **Archie** *make noises back, pointing and laughing.* **Paul** *goes and they stop.*

**Paul** Classic.

**Spencer** I've literally not got a clue.

**Archie** To be honest, I don't remember half the people in there.

**Katie** *enters.*

**Katie** Arch, there you are.

*She kisses Archie.*

**Katie** I've just spoken to the sitter, she's fine until ten, but she says Molly's got a tummy ache.

**Archie** Oh, well, we won't stay long.

*She sees Spencer.*

**Katie** Hi, Spencer. How are you? You look brilliant.

**Spencer** You're very kind, I'm covered in jam, but thanks.

**Archie** *laughs.* **Katie** *laughs too.*

**Katie** You're so funny.

**Archie** So funny.

**Katie** So good to see you.

*She strokes Spencer's chest.*

**Archie** It really is.

*He strokes Spencer too.*

**Simon** *enters in a suit that was doubtlessly very expensive, but which he somehow manages to look cheap.*

**Simon** Should've guessed I'd find you lot back in here.

**Others** Simon!

**Katie** How are you?

**Simon** Very well, thank you. Life's a gift.

*He assumes an affected casual pose.*

**Spencer** (*genuinely*) You look great. I almost didn't recognise you without those train tracks!

**Simon** Well, I had those removed obviously. My teeth are very straight now.

*He smiles for everyone.*

**Spencer** (*ironically*) Got any pubes yet?

**Katie, Archie and Spencer** *laugh.*

**Simon** Yes.

**Spencer** No, of course.

**Simon** Sorry I'm a bit late. My girlfriend took hours to get ready.

**Katie** Girlfriend?

**Simon** Yes. I'll just get her.

**Archie** Great.

**Simon** *goes outside.*

**Spencer** So, Katie, how was Kenya?

**Katie** It was incredible.

**Simon** *reappears in the doorway with Chemise – late twenties, tall and overdressed for the event. He closes the door. The others are chatting and don't notice her.*

**Archie** The landscape is just amazing.

**Spencer** Is it?

**Katie** And we went on safari, we saw elephants, lions, so many animals.

**Spencer** Wow.

*Visibly irritated, Simon tries to get their attention.*

**Simon** Ah. Hey guys, this is my girlfriend. This is Chemise.

**Katie/Archie/Spencer** Hi!

**Chemise** Hiya. I'm so glad I could find time in my busy modelling schedule to be here tonight.

**Katie** Lovely to meet you.

**Archie** Sorry, your name is Chemise?

**Chemise** Yeah.

**Simon** Like a French blouse.

**Archie** Chemise is shirt isn't it?

**Simon** Alright, Jean Claude Van Damme.

*A brief awkward pause.*

**Katie** So you're French?

**Chemise** Aye.

**Chemise** *realises she's perhaps now in trouble.*

**Spencer** Where did you meet?

**Simon/Chemise** Rome/Paris.

**Simon** It was in Paris . . . but in a restaurant in Rome . . .

**Chemise** Street.

**Katie** Oh, Rue de Rome? Which restaurant?

**Simon** Le Jambon Piscine.

*Pause.*

**Archie** The ham swimming pool?

**Simon** Yeah.

**Chemise** It was amazing. It's the first time I'd been to France.

**Katie** So how have things been going with you, Simon? Keeping busy?

**Simon** Busy isn't the word.

**Spencer** Not busy?

**Simon** No. I'm very busy.

**Archie** What do you do now?

**Simon** Sales.

**Katie** Oh, what do you sell?

**Simon** Cakes.

**Spencer** What kind?

**Simon** Well, urinal mostly –

**Katie** Urinal cakes?!

**Spencer** You run a papisserie.

**Archie** and **Katie** *laugh a little too much.*

**Simon** What are you up to, Spence? Still doing your band?

**Spencer** Yeah.

**Simon** Wish I could doss around like, that but I'm on fifty grand a year so . . . one-nil, Spencer. One-nil. Where's that other girl? What was her name?

**Chemise** Moon, you said.

**Simon** Ah! Yeah, yeah, Moon.

**Katie** You forgot her name? You practically worshipped her.

**Simon** (*laughing falsely*) I don't remember that. It's difficult to remember when you have as many friends as I have. Seven hundred on Facebook, five hundred on Twitter. Very little overlap as well, so that's almost twelve hundred friends across both platforms.

**Moon** *appears at the window and enters.*

**Moon** (*from outside*) Oh my God! (*Enters.*) Here you all are!

**Others** Moon!

**Moon** *gives them all hugs.*

**Simon** Moon. Simon Brown.

**Moon** I know, you haven't changed a bit.

**Simon** I have changed. This is my girlfriend Chemise.

**Moon** Nice to meet you.

**Chemise** I'm so glad I could find time in my busy modelling schedule to be here tonight.

**Moon** I thought you guys had stood me up.

**Archie** Sorry, we're all up here hiding from the alumni awards.

**Moon** I know, I had to get out of there, Richard Taylor just won Hottest Torso.

**Spencer** (*sighs*) Overlooked again.

**Archie** and **Katie** *laugh loudly at Spencer's joke.*

**Archie/Katie** No but you do look great./No, you look amazing.

**Simon** I also work out.

*Pause.*

**Moon** and **Archie** *walk over to the buffet.*

**Archie** Cupcake?

**Simon** and **Chemise** *follow.*

**Moon** I'm actually on an inner-peace tonic diet.

**Simon** What's that?

**Moon** I'll show you.

*She picks up a cupcake.*

**Moon** (*shouts*) NO!

*She puts the cake back down. Spencer and Katie are left alone.*

**Spencer** Wassup, Katie?

**Katie** Oop wassup, Spence?

*They chuckle awkwardly. Beat.*

I wasn't sure you'd be coming actually.

**Spencer** Me neither.

**Katie** I'm glad you did.

*Beat.*

**Spencer** Want to play a game?

**Katie** Yes!

**Spencer** Umm . . . okay. Reunion drinking game. We have to drink every time we hear someone tell a lie.

**Katie** (*laughs*) I don't know if I want to black out tonight.

**Moon** *comes back over.*

**Moon** What are you two talking about?

**Katie** We were just saying how much fun this is.

**Spencer** Mmm-hmm.

*He takes a drink.*

**Katie** *smiles.* **Archie, Simon and Chemise** *rejoin with sandwiches.* **Simon** *holds a pack of ten urinal cakes.*

**Simon** . . . And not only that, they're guaranteed to retain fragrance for seventy-two hours, giving you peace of mind.

**Archie** Yes. It's not the quality I'm concerned about. We just don't have a urinal in our house.

**Simon** *puts the urinal cakes down on the table with the sandwiches etc.*

**Simon** (*sighs*) Good memories here.

**Spencer and Katie** *drink.*

**Katie** Like the time we erased your name from the register and it took a whole year for the teacher to realise you had just been sat there!

**Simon** I don't remember that.

**Katie** It's so weird being back. It feels like it was only yesterday, you know?

**Chemise** Yeah, I know, it's weird isn't it?

**Katie** But you didn't go here?

**Chemise** Oh yeah.

*Beat.*

**Moon** Oh my God – selfie!

*She takes a photo of herself.*

**Simon** I invented that.

**Katie** You look so amazing, Moon!

**Moon** Thanks babes. I don't feel it. Mark and I are having such a nightmare opening this restaurant. It's like my idea and it's so exciting but such hard work.

**Simon** Great . . . Who's Mark?

**Moon** My husband.

**Simon** You're married?

**Moon** Yep.

**Katie** What is it, six months now?

**Moon** Nearly.

**Archie** Amazing!

**Spencer** Congrats.

**Simon** Chemise and I are married.

**Archie** Great.

**Chemise** Aye, yeah.

**Simon** Happily.

**Archie** Of course.

**Simon** Are you married, Spencer?

**Spencer** No.

**Simon** Oh. Two-nil, Spencer, two-nil.

**Spencer** Where did you get married?

**Simon** Church.

**Spencer** (*lisp*ing) Two-one.



**Chemise** So where did you and Mark meet?

**Moon** At a Buddhist retreat in Tibet. We were the only two people with Tinder on the mountain.

**Chemise** Aww, lovely. And your name's Moon?

**Moon** Yeah.

**Chemise** That's interesting. Where's that from?

**Moon** The Moon.

**Chemise** Oh. I just found out mine means shirt.

**Katie** How is married life?

**Moon** Amazing, obv's, but Mark's struggling to adapt to me running the restaurant.

**Katie** Oh, I'm sorry.

**Moon** I think he's just a bit emasculated because I've got this glamorous career. He just keeps poking holes in all of it. He keeps asking about like the license and the insurance and a chef and suppliers and he's like obsessed with the cost of like 'the premises'. It's just so unimportant, we don't even have a premises.

**Katie** You don't have a premises?

**Moon** No.

**Katie** But I thought you were opening a restaurant?

**Moon** I am.

**Katie** But you don't have a licence?

**Moon** No.

**Katie** Or a chef?

**Moon** No.

**Katie** Or a restaurant?

**Moon** Oh my God, you sound just like Mark!

**Moon** Anyway, how's your marriage?

**Archie** It's so great, great to be settled down.

**Katie** *drinks.*

**Moon** Oh yeah, that's good. Katie, be careful I don't steal him back!

*They all laugh.*

No, but really it's great you guys are so happy together. I mean you don't want to end up all on your own like Spencer. He's let himself go.

**Moon** I can't believe Five Angry Lobsters are still a thing.

**Simon** I can't believe they ever were a thing.

**Katie** He's laughing a lot but he's not happy.

**Archie** He's working.

**Katie** In a pet shop.

**Archie** What's wrong with that?

**Katie** Come on, Arch. It's just so sad that we've all moved away and he's just stuck here.

**Moon** Why did he even come? He's from the year below.

**Archie** I just feel bad for not keeping in touch.

**Moon** It's not our fault he got held back.

**Katie** That must have affected him though.

**Archie** I don't think it did. That was years ago.

**Moon** He should read the self-help book I read, *Believe: There's Nothing To It*. It's by Gwyneth Paltrow. It's amazing, I like totally wouldn't have the restaurant without it.

**Katie** Poor Spence. He must be so disappointed with . . . with . . . you know . . . how it's all worked out.

**Simon** He hides it well but ultimately he's just wearing such a mask.

*He smiles, all mask.*

**Archie** Shall we get back to the awards?

**Moon** Totes, I can't believe we're missing them. Hashtag FOMO!

**Moon** and **Archie** *exit to the main hall.* **Katie** *joins* **Spencer** *at the buffet.*

**Chemise** So we're married now?

**Simon** I said you'd have to go with the flow at the audition.

**Chemise** It just really isn't what my agent said it would be. She said it was immersive theatre. This is just real life.

**Simon** Well you can't get more immersive than that, can you? Have you learnt the speech?

**Chemise** Yeah. You don't think it's a bit much?

**Simon** No, it's subtle. Just get out there, spread the word. Come on! Hustle, hustle, hustle.

**Chemise** *exits.* **Simon** *notices* **Spencer** and **Katie** *looking over.*

**Simon** *(chuckles to himself)* I'm so in love.

*He exits.*

**Spencer** But with who?

**Katie** What do you mean?

**Spencer** He still totally likes Moon.

**Katie** No! That's nuts, how can you carry a torch for someone for all these years?

**Spencer** Yeah . . . crazy.

*He takes a drink.*

**Katie** You look well. Have you been keeping in shape?

**Spencer** No. No. But you look. Wow. I mean –

*He accidentally leans on the projector remote and it turns on again.*

**Voice** The male is aroused. He voids his sperm sac –

**Spencer** *desperately turns it off again.*

**Spencer** Ahem. So. So, how's London life?

**Katie** Yeah. Good. Mortgage is crippling but you know. The civil service is treating me well.

**Spencer** Do you have fun?

**Katie** I don't know if I really have time to have fun.

**Spencer** It could be worse, you could be married to the manager of a deeply unprofitable pet shop.

**Katie** *(laughs)* Oh God, can you imagine what it would have been like if we'd stayed together?

**Spencer** Yeah . . . You'd have been a roadie for the Angry Lobsters.

**Katie** Excuse me, I would have been the manager.

**Spencer** That's true.

**Katie** Oh, it would have been a nightmare. Our kids would have been terrors!

**Spencer** Would we have had kids?

**Katie** Oh yeah, big family.

**Spencer** They'd have been weird kids, though. They'd get ten out of ten in all their spelling tests but then they'd come home and take a shit in the corridor.

**Katie** You could have taught them to play keyboard.

**Spencer** Yeah! Make up the numbers in the band.

**Katie** Oh God, imagine the noise!

**Spencer** Exactly. The house would be chaos.

**Katie** Fun though.

**Spencer** Yeah. Lot of laughter. You'd never get any work done.

**Katie** Nightmare.

**Spencer** Nightmare.

**Katie** I suppose it might have been nice to work less.

**Spencer** *hesitates briefly.*

**Katie** But I'm so glad it didn't turn out like that.

**Spencer** Me too. What a horrible life that would have been.

*They both drink. They kiss, moving towards the table with the hamster,*

**Katie** *moves her arm and knocks the hamster cage onto the floor. It falls open.*

**Spencer/Katie** Oh my God./Oh shit!

**Spencer** Where did it go?

**Katie** It's okay! It's okay! He's just there. Grab him.

**Spencer** I got him.

*He goes to grab the hamster but it darts across the room and under another cupboard.*

**Spencer/Katie** No! No!

**Spencer** Bollocks. That kiss was amazing.

**Katie** I know, but we cannot lose – (*Reads.*) Hamye West.

**Spencer** I know.

*The hamster runs from the cupboard back across the room.*

There it is!

**Katie** I'll get him!

*The hamster runs across again, under the teacher's desk.*

No!

**Spencer** *dives on the floor to catch the hamster but lands on top of it.*

**Spencer** Ohh . . . Ohh no . . . I flopped it.

**Katie** What? Oh God. What do we do?

*Silence. Chemise appears in the doorway and stands there.*

**Chemise** When I first met Simon I knew he was the one for me. It wasn't just his toned body or his towering intellect. It was his raw, animal magnetism. His sporting prowess and his charitable work is only surpassed by his success in business but this too pales in comparison to his hot, hot sexual power.

*She exits.*

**Katie** What do we do?

**Spencer** I don't know.

**Katie** You work in a pet shop.

**Spencer** This doesn't happen in pet shops!

**Katie** We just need to get rid of it!

*She throws the hamster at the window and it bounces off the glass.*

We need to hide it!

**Spencer** The hideaway! Hide it behind that grate. I'll go to the shop and get a new one.

**Katie** Okay, great.

**Spencer** *goes to leave but Paul arrives.*

**Paul** Hey! There she is –

**Spencer** Paul! Wheey!

*He grabs Paul and embraces him, turning him away from Katie, who hides the dead hamster in the tissue box (on the teacher's desk). Katie gives Spencer the thumbs-up and he spins Paul back round.*

**Spencer** It's Paul. Katie, you remember Paul.

**Katie** . . . Yeah! Paul, how are you?

**Paul** Life and soul. Life and soul. The smiles just keep coming!

**Spencer** Don't you ever get sad?

**Paul** (*laughing*) Yeah.

**Spencer** Sorry, must run.

*He runs off.*

**Paul** How are you?

**Katie** Good. Good.

**Paul** You do remember me, don't you?

**Katie** Yeah. Yeah, of course. You're Paul.

**Paul** Right, because I get the feeling quite a lot of people here seem to have forgotten a lot about me. They don't remember the jokes. The characters. You must remember Walrus Paulrus.

*He pulls a walrus face.*

'Ello!

*He becomes 'Walrus Paulrus', dragging his body around the room like a walrus.*

**Katie** Yeah. How could anyone forget that?

**Paul** You're right, this will jog their memories.

**Paul** exits as 'Walrus Paulrus' (*yelping like a walrus etc*). **Katie** quickly takes the tissue box (*still with the hamster in it*) over to the grate and puts it on the table with the sandwiches etc. She kneels down and prises the grate open. Crammed inside it is an old, dusty exam paper which she takes out. She is about to stow the hamster away but is distracted by **Spencer's** name on the paper. She starts to look through it when **Moon** returns, on the phone. She stands by the table next to the tissue box.

**Moon** Oh my God, Mark just sign for it and let the delivery man go . . . Yes, we will need a red carpet . . . Er, I don't know, Mark, perhaps for the grand opening . . . Yes . . . Yes . . . Oh, *putain vous*, Mark!

*Welling up, Moon takes a tissue and dabs her eyes. She then takes the tissue box and puts it back on the teacher's desk.*

**Moon** Mark! Mark. Mark. Mark. Mark. Mark! Mark. Mark. Mark! Okay, if you don't believe in me and my dreams then maybe Daddy's right, maybe we shouldn't be together!

*She hangs up and sits down on the teacher's desk, sighing heavily. Katie stays quiet. Moon sighs again, fanning her face with her hand, really wanting Katie to ask what's wrong. Silence. Katie eventually caves.*

**Katie** You okay?

**Moon** Don't ask! I just really don't want to talk about it.

**Katie** That's fine.

**Moon** Mark is just being totally unsupportive. Everyone thinks I'm not even trying and I'm working so hard I'm Instagramming like all day.

*She goes to the buffet table and picks up another cupcake.*

NO!

*She puts the cupcake back down.*

The book says it won't happen unless you really believe in it, so I'm just like believing in a restaurant all the time and do you have any idea how tiring it is to like believe in a restaurant twenty-four hours a day? And I'm believing so hard, like . . . Nnnn!

*She believes really hard.*

Like . . . Nnnn! I can like see the red carpet. And Mark just so clearly doesn't believe in the restaurant. You believe in the restaurant, don't you?

**Katie** I believe that you believe in the restaurant.

**Moon** Yeah, you're right, I should leave him. Oh my God!



**Moon** starts crying. She takes the tissue box and moves to the teacher's desk, as she does she unknowingly takes the dead hamster out and blows her nose on it, throwing it on the chair afterwards. **Simon** comes in pretending to be on the phone.

**Simon** Yes, that seems like a good business deal where I would profit.

*He pretends to hang up.*

Are my ears burning?

**Katie** No.

**Simon** What's wrong?

**Moon** (*welling up*) Me and Mark are breaking up.

**Simon** (*clearly delighted*) Ohh, that's a shame . . .

**Moon** What is going on?! I just keep having these intense jealous relationships, why can't I find someone who's always there for me?

**Simon** Oh, you can.

*He gives Moon a cuddle.*

**Moon** Thanks, Simon.

**Simon** It's okay, it's okay. I'm here for you. I know exactly what you're going through.

**Moon** Hardly, you and Chemise seem so happy together.

**Katie** Yeah.

**Simon** Yeah, no, that's the thing, we seem very happy but . . . the spark's not there. I mean my spark is there, but her spark, it's gone.

**Chemise** *appears at the door.*

**Chemise** When I first met Simon I knew he was the one for me –

**Simon** No!

*He closes the door on **Chemise**.*

**Simon** We've drifted apart.

**Chemise** *appears at the window in the door.*

**Chemise** *(off)* IT WASN'T JUST HIS TONED BODY –

**Simon** *pulls the blind down over* **Chemise**.

**Chemise** *(louder)* OR HIS TOWERING INTELLECT –

**Simon** NOT NOW! Excuse me, I need to complete a business transaction.

*He exits.*

**Moon** Anyway, enough about me, tell me about you. I want to know everything.

**Katie** Well there is actually something I'd kind of like to get off my chest.

**Moon** Oh, I know. It's just like so hard to find people who really listen. It's just like me and Mark the other week, I was talking and he just wasn't listening.

**Katie** Yeah. Marriage is tricky . . . Actually me and Archie have –

**Moon** Tell me about it! That's just like me and Mark. We've been together for like six months now. Long-term relationships just don't work.

**Katie** It's okay. You'll find someone else.

**Moon** I know. I'm two-timing him with Richard Taylor anyway, but it's just like such a juggling act.

**Katie** I've actually got a similar problem. I just . . . kissed . . . Spencer.

**Moon** WHAT! OH MY GOD! HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?!

**Katie** You just said you're cheating on your husband with Richard Taylor!

**Moon** Yeah, that's just hand-jobs! We don't kiss!

**Katie** Please don't tell anyone.

**Moon** Oh my God, I would never tell anyone.

**Katie** Seriously, this is my marriage.

**Moon** Don't worry I'm good with secrets. You know you and Spence were so cute together, you never should have broken up.

**Katie** You told me to break up with him!

**Moon** (*laughs*) Oh my God, yeah, I was such a bitch back then. Thank God I've changed.

*Her phone rings.*

(*With anger.*) WHAT IS IT NOW, MARK? Ugh, I'm going to kill you!

*She exits the other way. Archie comes in.*

**Archie** Hey, have you seen Spencer?

**Katie** No. Absolutely not. No. No. Forget Spencer. Let's talk about us. You know what I've been thinking, actually we should take some time for our marriage. We should go on holiday.

**Archie** We've just been on holiday.

**Katie** But that was with Molly and your mother. We should do a romantic trip, just the two of us.

**Archie** I'm so busy with work.

**Katie** Yeah. But we always have such fun when we go away. So, let's be spontaneous. We could get the first flight out of here tomorrow. My dad can take Molly.

**Archie** No he can't. Pam kicked him out again. He's back in the Travelodge.

**Katie** Then Mum can.

**Archie** Let me think about it.

**Katie** Okay. I love you.

**Archie** What's that?

**Katie** Nothing. Just an old exam paper I found.

*She exits. Archie thinks for a moment, then goes to follow, puzzled.*

**Simon and Chemise** enter, not seeing **Archie** upstage left.

**Simon** Okay, let's go through it.

**Chemise** OH SIMON! Simon, I can't do this any more!

**Archie** walks back down towards **Chemise** and **Simon**, watching them.

**Simon** Why? What's wrong?

**Chemise** You're too much for me, you're too much for me in bed. I have to leave you.

**Simon** Chemise, please!

**Chemise** I just feel inadequate next to you . . .

**Simon** Dwarfed by your accomplishments.

**Chemise** – dwarfed by your accomplishments. You should be with another entrepreneur.

**Simon** But where will you go?

**Chemise** I don't know.

**Simon** hands **Chemise** a set of car keys.

**Simon** Here, take my Bentley. I can buy another one.

**Chemise** Thank you, Simon. I shall miss you and your house which has a pool.

**Simon** Goodbye, Chemise.

**Chemise** . . . Farewell!

*She runs out dramatically.*

**Simon** Nice.

**Archie** *moves into the room.*

**Simon** Naahhh!!!

**Archie** Simon. Wow. What happened there? That was weird.

**Simon** Um. Yeah.

**Archie** Did she just leave you?

**Simon** Yeah. She did. I was just too much for her in bed, and now she's gone forever.

**Chemise** *enters.*

**Chemise** (*not noticing Archie*) Was that okay, pet?

**Simon** Naaahhh!

*He closes the door on Chemise.*

**Simon** Excuse me, I need to complete a business transaction.

*He walks to the door while Archie stands, confused. He notices the missing grate and his eyes widen in horror. He chases after Katie.*

**Archie** Katie?!

**Simon** *lets Chemise back in.*

**Chemise** How was that?

**Simon** Pretty good. Archie bought it.

**Chemise** Well, yeah. You know a reviewer once said I was unbelievable as any character.

**Simon** Just uh, speak a bit more naturally. You're stressing the wrong words. And make 'Farewell' sadder.

**Chemise** Got it.

**Simon** Wait here, I'll find Moon. (*As he exits.*) Moon!

*He goes.*

**Chemise** *is left alone. She strides around the room pretending to be a teacher.*

**Chemise** Sit up straight. Tuck your shirt in. Get that glue stick out of your mouth, you little minger. I could totally play a teacher.

*Content, she sits down heavily on the chair with the dead hamster on it and jumps up.*

Argh!

*She sees the hamster on the chair and picks it up.*

Oh shite!

*She puts the hamster on the teacher's desk. She opens the window. The window closes as she moves back to the desk to collect the hamster, which she throws at the now-closed window. The hamster bounces off the window. She picks it up.*

*As she moves towards the hamster cage, **Spencer** enters with a cardboard pet carrier and she is caught in no man's land.*

**Spencer** *opens the pet carrier and takes out a live hamster. **Chemise** watches.*

**Archie** *enters. **Chemise** is hidden behind the door. **Spencer** quickly fumbles the hamster back into the carrier, sits on a school desk and hides it behind his back.*

**Archie** Spence.

**Spencer** Archie.

*As **Archie** approaches, **Spencer** swivels on the desk keeping the pet carrier out of view.*

**Archie** Have you seen Katie?

**Spencer** No. Absolutely not. No.

**Archie** Good. Listen, I've been meaning to talk to you. I'm sorry we've lost touch.

**Spencer** Don't worry, it's fine.

**Archie** I've just been a little down lately.

*He sits. **Spencer** shoves the pet carrier out of view again. The hamster squeaks. He tries to cover it by doing a high-pitched laugh.*

**Spencer** Sorry, that's not funny at all.

**Chemise** *creeps round from the door and switches the dead hamster for the live one, putting the live one in the cage.*

**Archie** I know I haven't been the best at responding to emails and I've been a little distant since school, but I promise we will spend more time together.

**Spencer** Good.

**Archie** Right, I need to find Katie.

*He goes to the door. **Spencer** stands up. **Archie** turns around, and **Spencer** dives back in front of the pet carrier.*

**Archie** Spencer.

**Spencer** Yeah?

**Archie** Nothing.

*He exits. **Spencer** goes to the pet carrier and opens it. He peers into it and his face falls. Confused, he takes out another dead hamster. He shakes it, nothing. He storms out, tossing the dead hamster under the table and throwing the pet aside. **Moon** comes back in, upset.*

*She goes straight to the buffet table and picks up a cupcake.*

**Moon** YES!

*She begins devouring the cake.*

**Paul** *enters stage left, as 'Walrus Paulrus'.*

**Paul** *(trying to jog her memory with increasing desperation)* Eh? Eh? Eh? Eh? Eh? EH?!

*He fails and leaves stage right as Walrus Paulrus, devastated.*

**Moon** *continues to eat and accidentally treads on the dead hamster. She springs back and sees it.*

**Moon** Oh no . . . oh my God! Oh my God I'm Spencer!

*She picks up the dead hamster and puts it in the discarded pet carrier.*

**Katie** comes in.

**Katie** Moon!

**Moon** quickly turns, hiding the pet carrier under one of the school desks.

**Moon** Argh! What?

**Katie** Have you seen Spencer?

**Simon** looks in through the window in the door. Hse turns to grab **Chemise**.

**Moon** No. Sorry. Sorry.

*She runs out with the dead hamster as **Simon** enters with **Chemise** the other way (believing **Moon** is still there). **Chemise** enters and they begin the break-up scene again. She stresses the wrong words throughout.*

**Chemise** Oh Simon! Simon, I can't do this any more!

**Katie** watches, bewildered.

**Simon** Why? What's wrong?

**Chemise** You're too much for me. You're too much for me. In bed. I have to leave you.

**Simon** Chemise, please!

**Chemise** I just feel inadequate next to you . . .

**Simon** (*prompts*) Dwarfed by your accomplish –

**Chemise** Dwarfed by your accomplishments! You should be with another entrepreneur.

**Simon** But where will you go?

**Chemise** I don't know.

**Simon** hands **Chemise** a set of car keys.

**Simon** Here, take my Bentley. I can buy another one.



**Chemise** Thank you, Simon. I shall miss you and your house which has a pool.

**Simon** Goodbye, Chemise.

**Chemise** FAREWELL!

*She runs out dramatically.*

**Simon** Sorry, you weren't supposed to see that.

*He turns to see **Katie** is there and **Moon** isn't.*

**Katie** Yeah, I'm so sorry, Simon.

**Simon** No, you really weren't supposed to see that. Chemise!

*He exits, revealing **Chemise**.*

**Simon** And again. Give it some more . . . Do more arms!

**Chemise** and **Simon** exit. **Spencer** enters, now out of breath, with another, identical pet carrier.

**Spencer** I've got one! The other one died.

**Katie** I know, I saw.

**Spencer** No, not that one. That one died, but also the other one died. It's okay, this one's a pretty similar colour.

**Katie** Spencer, I need to talk to you about something.

**Spencer** The kiss? We shouldn't have kissed, it was bad. Very bad kiss. Many dead hamsters.

**Katie** It's not about that –

**Spencer** And Archie – we should tell Archie.

**Katie** About the hamster?

**Spencer** About the kiss! No one must know about the hamster. I cannot be the guy who is still flopping hamsters in his thirties.

**Katie** No, we cannot tell Archie about the kiss. I have to show you something –

**Archie** *comes in.*

**Archie** Hey! There you are.

**Spencer** *hides the pet carrier under the school desk as used by Moon, knocking the other pet carrier to the front of the desk.*

**Archie** Katie, can I have a word?

**Katie** Of course.

**Archie** *takes Katie to one side.*

**Archie** Katie. What is that paper?

**Katie** It's Spencer's Year Nine exam paper. I think he got held back by mistake or something – look, it never got marked. I need to show him –

**Archie** Don't.

**Katie** Why not?

**Archie** Because what if you're right? He'd be heartbroken. He's better off not knowing.

**Katie** No Arch, he's got a right to know, it ruined his life!

**Archie** It didn't ruin his life. It just . . . disturbed his life. We can't change it now and even if we could why would you want to, Spencer's a happy, regular, well-adjusted guy.

*Behind them Spencer goes back to the pet carrier at the front of the desk (the one left by Moon), opens it and discovers another dead hamster inside. He bangs it on the table trying to wake it up.*

**Spencer** Why is there so much death?!

**Archie** It didn't make any difference.

**Katie** Yes it did, getting held back that year has ruined him, he's not grown up, he lives in the same town, he manages a pet shop, he doesn't get any exercise, he's completely unmotivated.

**Spencer** I must run to the pet shop immediately!

*He dashes out with the pet carrier.*

**Archie** See, he's fine.

**Katie** He's not fine.

**Archie** It could have been a lot worse. Look at Simon, for example, terrible job, massive chip on his shoulder and twenty minutes ago I saw him breaking up with Shirt.

**Katie** That's weird. I saw them break up about five minutes ago.

**Archie** Maybe they got back together for a bit?

**Katie** People don't get back together that quickly.

**Moon** *enters.*

**Moon** (*seeing a text come in*) Ah! I'm back with Mark.

**Katie** It was the strangest thing I've ever heard. She said she felt inadequate next to him.

**Archie** Yeah, dwarfed by his accomplishments.

**Katie** Yeah, yeah, and she said he was too much . . .

**Archie/Katie** In bed.

**Archie** And then he gave her a Bentley.

**Katie** Another Bentley?!

**Moon** Wow. Who would have thought you could make so much money selling lemon biscuits?

**Archie** He sells urinal cakes.

**Moon** Ugh!

*She spits out some yellow chunks.*

**Katie** What else did they say?

**Simon** (*from outside*) Now.

**Chemise** *explodes into the room again with Simon chasing behind. Katie, Archie and Moon watch on in disbelief.*

**Chemise** OH, SIMON! Simon I can't do this any more!

**Simon** Why? What's wrong?

**Chemise** (*flapping her arms*) You're too much for me, you're too much for me in bed. I have to leave you.

**Simon** Chemise, please!

**Chemise** I just feel inadequate next to you . . .

**Archie** (*prompting*) Dwarfed by your accomplishments.

**Chemise** Dwarfed by your accomplishments. Thanks. You should be with another entrepreneur.

**Simon** But where will you go?

**Chemise** I don't know.

**Simon** Here . . .

*He looks for the keys but doesn't have them. Chemise hands them back to him. He hands them back to her.*

**Simon** Take my Bentley. I can buy another one.

**Chemise** Thank you, Simon. I shall miss you and your house which has a pool.

**Simon** Goodbye, Chemise.

**Chemise** (*maximum passion*) FAREWELL!!

*She runs out dramatically.*

**Simon** Sorry, you weren't supposed to see that.

**Moon** Oh my God . . . You have a pool?

**Katie** Of course he doesn't.

**Archie** What on earth is going on?

**Simon** Erm . . .

**Katie** Why has Chemise broken up with you three times?

**Simon** We have an on-again off-again relationship.

**Moon** Hashtag me too.

**Katie** You're not using that right!

**Spencer** *runs in exhausted with another pet carrier.*

**Spencer** Got it!

*He slips, falls and crushes the hamster.*

Come on!

*He throws it away in frustration and sprints straight out. Paul enters now at breaking point.*

**Paul** That is it! I have asked everybody in this building and not one person remembers me!

**Archie** Why's she just waiting in the corridor?

**Katie** She's an actress.

**Moon** Yeah! She was a cage-fighter in that episode of *Holby City*.

**Paul** How can you remember her and not remember me? I was a legend! I am Paul! I was so talented the school renamed all the games after me! Footpaul! Basketpaul! Badminpaul! Everyone knew me!! I was the bloody king of Bloomsbury Comprehensive!

*He drops to his knees.*

**Archie** This is Bloomfield's.

**Paul** Ahhh! I thought the building was a different shape. I've got a reunion to get to. Thank you all for a lovely evening. Goodnight.

*He exits.*

**Moon** Simon's married to an actress?

**Katie** No, he's hired an actress.

**Simon** It's not true. She's left me. She's gone for good.

**Chemise** *comes back in with a piece of paper.*

**Chemise** Ten o'clock. Here's my invoice.

**Simon** Not now!

*Looks at the invoice.*

She's added VAT.

*He takes out his inhaler and puffs on it.*

Stop looking at me like that! (*Lisps.*) I've changed! I've changed.

**Spencer** *arrives, red-faced and breathless, holding a very large pet box.*

**Spencer** Okay. This one is not similar!

**Katie** What colour is it?

**Spencer** It's a snake.

**Archie** What happened to the hamster?

**Spencer** I flopped him. Alright! I flopped him. Don't worry. Kids love snakes.

*Reads the tag on the box.*

Especially Gaboon Vipers.

**Katie** It wasn't Spencer's fault.

**Spencer** It's fine. I've got a snake now, no more hamsters have to die.

*He loads the snake into the hamster cage. The cage shakes as the snake eats all the hamsters in the cage.*

No!

**Moon** Wow, you guys really haven't changed.

**Simon** YES I HAVE! I'm a success, I sold more urinal cakes June to July than anyone else in the company. I was keynote speaker at the Toilet-ware Conference 'There's No I in Wee'.

I'm a businessman. How's your business, Moon? Ooh sorry, non-existent? What have you done with your life?

**Moon** Simon, my restaurant is not non-existent, it's pre-existent. Gwyneth Paltrow says it's in the potential creative ether waiting for me to actualise it.

**Spencer** You don't have a restaurant!

**Moon** Alright, Pet Shop Boy.

**Archie** Hey, there's nothing wrong with working in a pet shop. Spence's following his dream.

**Moon** By shovelling mouse crap?

**Spencer** Mouse crap doesn't require a shovel.

**Simon** Not exactly success though, is it?

**Spencer** At least I have pubes.

**Simon** I have pubes.

**Spencer** Man without pubes says what?

**Simon** What?

**Spencer** Whey!

**Simon** Oh, funny, Spencer! You're so bloody funny aren't you! But is it as funny when I jump out the window?!

*He climbs up on to the window ledge and opens the window.*

**Archie** Simon, what are you doing?

**Simon** Killing myself.

**Spencer** Get down, mate. Oh, it's not high enough, Simon, you'll just break an arm or something.

**Simon** Is it any wonder I'm like this? I'm like this because of all of you! You erased my name from the register and the teacher forgot about me for a whole year. My first kiss was with a fish!

**Archie** You said you'd forgotten about all that.

**Simon** Well, I obviously haven't, have I?! I think about it daily and that's why I'm a knob now! That's why I park in disabled spaces, that's why I empty out the Save the Children box on reception every Friday evening before I lock up, that's why when someone orders ten packs of urinal cakes I send them eight and when they call up to complain I pretend to be Spanish. That's why I paid Chemise to come with me tonight.

I just . . . I just want you to like me. I want you to respect me. I want someone who loves me.

**Moon** Tragic.

**Simon** Shut up! You are not a nice person! I don't even like you and I'm in love with you!

**Moon** Whatever, Simon. I'm the most popular girl in school.

**Katie** WE'RE NOT AT SCHOOL ANY MORE!

**Moon** UM. YES WE ARE.

**Katie** I can't believe I ever listened to you. You haven't changed a bit since you were fourteen.

**Moon** Oh my God, thank you.

**Katie** It's not a compliment! You were shallow and bitter and insecure then, and you still are now . . .

**Moon** Spencer and Katie kissed tonight.

**Archie** WHAT?!

**Katie** MOON!

**Moon** (*mocking*) KATIE!

**Katie** Archie, I'm so sorry, yes, we did kiss.

**Archie** You kissed Spencer?

**Katie** It was just a moment of madness.

**Spencer** It was.

**Katie** We were out of our minds.



**Spencer** We were.

**Katie** I felt sick afterwards.

**Spencer** Alright.

**Katie** But it didn't mean anything.

**Spencer** Didn't it?

**Archie** What?! Did it mean something to you?

**Spencer** Well, I feel like now's not the time to discuss it.

**Archie** Now is absolutely the time to discuss it!

**Spencer** I wouldn't say it didn't mean anything. We used to be together, after all.

**Simon** Alright, I'm jumping!

**Moon** Not now, Simon, this is getting good.

**Katie** Spencer, we were fourteen.

**Spencer** So?

**Katie** So, I'm married now.

**Spencer** Come on, you can't say you never wondered what could have been between us.

**Katie** I . . . Well . . .

**Archie** Katie!

**Katie** Spencer, you never said anything. After we finished school, before the wedding. You never told me.

**Spencer** You dumped me. I felt terrible. I failed my test, got held back and you dumped me.

**Archie** So what?! You kissed my wife!

**Spencer** Technically you married my girlfriend.

**Archie** You weren't together, she was fair game!

**Spencer** You stole her from me!

**Katie** Are you done marking your territory or would one of you like to piss on me?

**Simon** I'm not into that.

**Spencer** My life got ruined because I failed one stupid test.

**Katie** You might not have failed!

**Spencer** What?

**Moon** What?

**Archie** Shit.

**Katie** I found it. Unmarked. Here.

**Spencer** My end-of-year . . .

**Archie** Spence I, I, I forgive you.

**Spencer** Where was it?

**Katie** Behind the grate.

**Spencer** The hideaway?

*He looks at Archie.*

**Spencer** Arch?

**Archie** Yes. Yes. Yes. I . . . Sorry.

**Katie** What?

**Archie** It, um . . . it is possible that back in Year Nine I hid your end-of-year paper.

**Katie** You did?!

**Spencer** No. It was marked. I got an F. That's why I got held back.

**Archie** No, I filled out another paper, so you'd . . . fail.

**Katie** Archie, why did you do this?

**Archie** I just . . . I dunno –

**Spencer** You're the reason I'm shovelling mouse crap?

**Moon** I knew you shovelled it and I knew it bothered you.

**Katie** It's your fault he works in a pet shop.

**Archie** We don't know he would have passed.

**Katie** Well then, let's find out.

**Archie** No! No good can come from marking that exam now. What are you gonna do if you passed, go back to Year Ten?

**Moon** Oh my God, I would love that.

**Spencer** I . . . I don't know.

*He goes to open the paper.*

**Archie** No, Spence. Don't do it!

**Moon** Definitely do it!

**Archie** He's not going to read it.

**Katie** He wants to read it.

**Archie** We're not reading it.

*He grabs the paper.*

**Spencer** Oi, give it!

**Archie** *runs round the room, darting about the desks, mirroring the chase from Act Two (with the song lyrics).*

**Archie** No! You don't need to see it, Spence.

**Spencer** I got held back and lost all my friends because what? You liked Katie and couldn't stand the fact that she liked me.

**Archie** She's my wife!

**Spencer** I saw her first. Arch, give it!

*He tries to grab the paper again but Archie pushes him away. They tussle for a moment.*

**Katie** I'm getting a teacher.

**Katie** exits. **Spencer** grabs the space-hopper and hits **Archie** with it. He drops the paper and falls into the buffet table, knocking food and drink everywhere, hurting himself.

Silence. **Spencer** picks up the paper.

**Spencer** Why did you do this, Archie?

**Archie** I don't know.

**Spencer** You don't know?! What do you mean, you don't know?!

**Archie** I was jealous!

**Spencer** What?

**Archie** It was when you wrote that song for Katie. I was jealous!

**Spencer** That's it? That's all you've got to say? You were jealous of me.

**Archie** I wasn't jealous of you.

**Spencer** So you were jealous of . . . my music?

**Archie** No. I was jealous of Katie.

**Spencer** Of Katie? Why?

**Katie** re-enters.

**Archie** Because I wanted you.

He turns to see **Katie**.

**Archie** Oh shit, Kate.

**Katie** Mr Murray-White . . . says he'll be up . . . once he's finished his wine.

Beat.

**Archie** Kate . . .

**Katie** Archie is that true?

Beat.

**Katie** Is what you just said true?

*Silence. Archie nods.*

**Katie** You've always felt like that?

**Archie** *nods.*

**Katie** You felt like that at school?

**Archie** I'm sorry.

**Katie** You felt like that at our wedding?

**Archie** It's complicated.

*Silence. Archie goes to Katie and tries to hug her.*

**Katie** Get off me.

**Archie** Kate, please . . .

**Katie** *slaps him.*

**Katie** Did you ever love me?

**Archie** I did. I do. I just – You don't understand.

**Katie** You're right. I don't.

**Moon** Homophobic.

**Katie** Shut up.

**Moon** It's okay to be gay.

**Katie** I know! I know! Be gay! Just don't be gay and marry me!

**Archie** I'm sorry . . . I'm so sorry, Kate. But . . . I was so scared. And lonely. Can you imagine what it's like to grow up hating yourself and trying to hide it then . . . hating yourself for hiding it? Feeling like you're only half a person, because there's a whole other half of you that you can't let anyone see. I know I hurt you. I lied to you. But for so long I thought I could change it if I just kept at it. I could fix it. I spent nights praying 'Please God let me be normal.' I just wanted to be normal. And my dad . . . my bloody dad . . . I didn't mean to . . . I didn't want . . . I'm so sorry.

**Katie** Don't be sorry! Don't be sorry . . .

**Archie** You're my best friend, Kate.

**Katie** You're my best friend too . . . of course you are. But —  
*Her phone rings. She answers.*

*(On the phone.)* Hello? Okay.

*(To Archie.)* Archie, Molly's got a fever.

*(On the phone.)* Hello, sweetheart . . . Oh my poor baby . . .  
Don't worry, Mummy and Daddy are going to come home  
right now . . . I love you. See you ever so soon. *(Hangs up.)*

Archie, are you coming?

**Archie** Yeah. Yeah, of course. Are you . . . alright?

**Katie** Yes. Just thinking. How will we divide up the Nectar  
points?

**Archie** It'll be okay.

**Katie** *(nods)* Let's go home and look after Molly. Then we'll  
pour two very large glasses of wine and we'll . . . talk.

**Archie** Yeah. I'll bring the car round.

*He leaves.*

**Simon** I should probably make a move too. High Wycombe's  
not going to live in itself.

*He steps down from the window-ledge.*

**Moon** Yeah, we should definitely do this again.

**Spencer** Take care, Simon. Always a pleasure.

**Simon** You too. Good to see you Moon.

**Moon** Night Simon.

**Simon** Goodnight.

*He heads off.*

**Moon** Simon.

**Simon** *stops.*

**Moon** . . . I'm sure your penis isn't just medical.

**Simon** (*slightly moved*) Thank you.

*He goes but stops and turns in the doorway.*

**Spencer** What?

**Simon** Anne has my car keys.

*He smiles.*

**Moon** Who's Anne?

**Simon** Chemise. Her real name's Anne. She's not called Chemise obviously, it means shirt.

**Spencer and Moon** *smile back.*

**Simon** I can't get home!

**Moon** You really gave her a Bentley?

**Simon** No. I re-badged a Fiat Punto.

*They all laugh again and eventually it subsides.*

**Moon** I can drop you off if you'd like.

**Simon** Wow. I mean yes, okay, if . . . yeah, alright, thanks.

**Moon** No worries.

*She walks over to Katie.*

**Moon** Katie . . . You're actually sitting on my coat.

**Simon** *follows.*

**Simon** I don't really have a pool either.

**Moon** That's okay, I don't have a restaurant.

**Moon and Simon** *go, leaving Spencer and Katie alone.*

**Katie** I'm sorry we lost touch, Spence.

**Spencer** I'm sorry too.

**Katie** I did wonder . . . sometimes.

**Spencer** Oh?

**Katie** You remind me of a time when I thought I could be anything. But the more I think about it the more I think we were just kids when we were going out. We just weren't together long enough for the cracks to show. We build up these relationships in our minds but in real life it's never quite what you imagined.

*Suddenly **Simon** and **Moon** slam against the glass window in the door, making out horribly, then disappear from view.*

**Katie** In my mind it's all so perfect. But maybe it's best to leave it like that. In my mind. Where it's perfect.

**Spencer** They're beautiful, aren't they? The lives you don't live.

*Beat. **Katie** puts on her coat.*

**Katie** If I ever need a hamster I'll know who to call.

**Spencer** We're currently out of stock. Look after Archie.

**Katie** Of course.

***Katie** leaves. **Spencer** takes a piece of paper and draws a picture of a hamster, then sticks it onto the front of the hamster cage. He leans on the desk and accidentally presses the projector remote again.*

**Voice** Now exhausted, the male dies.

***Spencer** turns it off, annoyed. We hear a squeak from within the remaining pet carrier. **Spencer** sits down and opens the pet carrier on his lap. **Archie** enters.*

**Spencer** I'm not eating it.

**Archie** Forgot my coat.

**Spencer** Sure.

***Archie** takes his coat. **Spencer** closes the pet carrier.*



**Spencer** How are you . . . feeling?

**Archie** Yeah. Okay. Pretty normal. I suppose just a bit . . .  
'What now?' You know?

**Spencer** Right. Hey, we've uh, got a spare ticket for Glastonbury if you want to join us? Get the band back together? Be really cool to have a gay lobster.

**Archie** Maybe. Yeah. Spence, I . . . I'm so sorry. About the exam paper.

**Spencer** It's alright.

**Archie** No, it's not. I had no right to do what I did. You should mark it.

**Spencer** There's no need.

**Archie** You have to. You need to know. What I did was awful and if you'd have passed then I'll never forgive myself.

**Spencer** Then I don't want to know.

*He rips up the paper.*

**Archie** Thanks, Spencer.

**Spencer** It's okay, Archie. Love you.

**Archie** Yeah.

*They hug*

*Blackout.*

*Curtain call followed by an Angry Lobsters number.*

## **'Trigonometry Blues' Lyrics**

### *Chorus 1*

I wanna get out of school  
I learned my lesson  
I wanna get out of school and stay there  
I wanna get out of school  
I learned my lesson  
I wanna get out of school and stay there  
Waste away there.

### *Verse 1*

That bit's too big  
And so then this bit's too small  
It just makes no sense at all  
My body *feels disjointed*  
'Pi' wasn't 'pie'  
So when we learned about Pi  
I thought we'd be eating pie  
And I was *disappointed*  
Ditching my lunch  
Cos my mum packed my lunch  
But I just want Monster Munch  
Cos I am *sick of tuna*  
Made up a joke  
And told my best friend the joke  
Now he says it's his joke  
Should've *I'd said it sooner*

### *Bridge*

I'm saving up to buy a car  
So I can drive you crazy  
I got served at ASDA  
And got four WKDs

*Chorus 2*

I wanna get out of school  
I learned my lesson  
I wanna get out of school and stay there  
I wanna get out of school  
I learned my lesson  
I wanna get out of school and stay there  
Waste away there.  
Waste a . . .

*Recorder solo*

*Verse 2*

Waste away there  
Dragged my shoe on the floor  
On the gymnasium floor  
You know that rubbery floor?  
So people *think I farted!*  
Urgh, I'm so clenched  
History's got me so tense  
I cannot make any sense  
Out of the Magna Carta  
Can't find my pen  
Because I gave it to Ben  
And then he lent it to Gwen  
Who passed it on to Igor  
Windows Excel  
Can just piss off as well  
Because the IT department  
Are just *nerds with keyboards*

*Bridge*

I'm failing physics, maths and art  
Even though I don't care  
I forgot to write this part  
Not good at academia  
Eating my lunch in the loos  
So no one sees me

I can't get rid of this glue from DT  
Got trigonometry blues  
I got caught cheating  
Maybe I'll stay in the loos  
Just stay here  
Waste away here

*Chorus 3*

I wanna go back to school  
Start all over  
I wanna go back to school and stay there  
I wanna go back to school  
Start all over  
I wanna go back to school and stay there  
Waste away there  
Waste away there  
Waste away there

*End.*

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